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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should foreign workers be made to pay for their own medical insurance?

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INSIDE



'Not Guilty'

The suspect in the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords submits a plea of not guilty.

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Moscow Mayhem

A suicide bomber blows himself up at a Moscow airport, killing 35 people.

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Half-Sister

Oprah Winfrey has discovered she has a half-sister.

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1 so far applied for E2 investor status

- Kilili says funding found for prevailing wage survey
- USCIS meets with lawmakers, businesses on investor rule

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Only one has so far applied for a CNMI-only E-2 investor status since the application for such status opened on Jan. 18, but the number is expected to increase after the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services wraps up today its public sessions on the investor rule and grant of status.

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FROM 2006 TO 2009

Former Tinian mayor spent \$103,000 for 61 trips

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER



San Nicolas

Former Tinian mayor Jose P. San Nicolas spent a total of \$103,000 for travel during the last four fiscal years of his term in office. The amount represents 61 trips to local and international events, including official representation for the municipality and meetings with investors outside the Commonwealth.

Records obtained through an
See FORMER on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

AQUACULTURE SYMPOSIUM

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, front row, second from left, and Northern Marianas College interim president Lorraine Cabrera, front row, second from right, pose with the organizers and supporters of the 2011 Open Ocean Cage Culture Symposium, during a news briefing yesterday in the governor's conference room. The symposium, meant to help further develop the CNMI's aquaculture industry, will be held today and tomorrow at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe. **See story on Page 4.**

To move or downsize: DCCA fate known in 2 weeks' time

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that some functions of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs may either be transferred to other agencies or some of its operations may be downsized as part of the cash-strapped government's efficiency review.

Inos is heading a team reviewing the recommendations of Virginia-based Management Analysis Inc., which was contracted for \$254,459.12 to

conduct a desk audit of DCCA and the Department of Public Safety.

Inos said the team will reconvene within two weeks and decide which of the recommendations on DCCA will be implemented.

"There are lots of recommendations but a lot of it has to do with re-allocating the functions from DCCA to other activities, other agencies," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday on Capital Hill.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rob Stewart, third from right, director of the acclaimed documentary *Sharkwater*, poses for a group photo with CNMI lawmakers on Capital Hill yesterday morning. From left, House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Stewart, Delegate Gregorio Killi C. Sablan, and Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

'Sharkwater' sequel to feature the CNMI

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The CNMI may well receive considerable media exposure as a Canadian photographer and filmmaker plans to feature the islands in a movie sequel that aims to follow the journey of human survival and protecting ecosystems in serious jeopardy.

Rob Stewart, director of the acclaimed documentary *Sharkwater*, said he would be **See CNMI on Page 4**

NMC opposes Torres' two bills at Senate public hearing. PAGE 2
50 pct. tax break eyed for those with at least 80 pct. citizen employees. PAGE 3

Local

NMC opposes Torres' two bills at Senate public hearing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College officials and faculty, Board of Regents members, and private citizens opposed two House bills that they described as infringing on NMC's autonomy, during a Senate public hearing yesterday afternoon on Capital Hill. They said issues such as due process and financial reporting are already covered by existing laws and college policies that only need to be properly enforced, and do not need new legislation.

At the same time, NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera told Senate and House members

at the hearing that the Fital administration has been delayed in its transmittal of allotments to NMC for almost four pay periods, the fourth one being this Friday's payroll.

Later on, however, NMC chief financial administrative officer Dawn Chrystal Revilla told lawmakers that the administration was able to remit the allotments for two pay periods on Monday.

This means the administration is behind in its allotment remittance by at least one payroll, and if it fails to timely remit by Friday, it will still be behind by two pay periods.

Acting Finance secretary Larissa Larson and Vicky Vil-

lagomez of Management and Budget separately said the government is experiencing severe cash shortage.

Cabrera, Board of Regents member Frank Rabauliman, and former NMC president Agnes McPhetres told lawmakers that the college already has policies in place or are being finalized, addressing the concerns raised in House Bills 17-39 and 17-93.

These includes laws or policies on due process in the termination of employees, reporting to the Legislature of all funds received and spent by NMC, and the college's need to tap the Office of the Attorney General.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-

Saipan), author of the two bills, said that if NMC desires complete autonomy "and act independent of the governor, the Legislature and the taxpayers, then it should move to privatize the college."

McPhetres, the longest serving NMC president, said all that needs to be done is enforce existing laws and policies.

McPhetres urged Torres and NMC officials to work cooperatively to resolve the issues he raised in his bills.

Dr. John Griffin, vice president of the NMC faculty senate who spoke at the hearing as a private citizen, echoed the same sentiment.

He said due process is already

in the books and only needs enforcement; that public records are already required by law; and that since it was the Office of the Attorney General that previously asked NMC to have its own counsel, there's no reason NMC can go back to the OAG for guidance.

Cabrera said NMC does not have a problem submitting financial reports to the Legislature.

"For the community to think that NMC's tuition and fees are our slush fund, that's very wrong," she told lawmakers. But she said when NMC was not able to receive their allotments for almost two months, that affected their operations.

She said NMC opposes the two bills as they are currently written, while McPhetres asks that the Senate defer acting on the two bills until the parties concerned sit down together.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), chairman of the Senate Committee on Educa-

tion, reiterated that what they're conducting was a public hearing and not an oversight hearing.

NMC instructor Sam McPhetres also invited lawmakers to his class where students will discuss the two bills, among other issues, on Thursday, from 5pm to 6:30pm, at Room D1 on the NMC campus.

HB 17-93 seeks to improve the financial oversight of NMC. It also says the attorney general shall be responsible for providing legal advice to NMC.

The other bill, HB 17-39, seeks to amend the Postsecondary Education Act of 1984, to ensure that officers, faculty, and staff of NMC, excluding the president, are terminated through an adopted grievance proceeding and only "with cause." It also requires a merit personnel system.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao's (Ind-Rota) Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee co-hosted the public hearing with the Education Committee.

Of 5 judges, Judge Manglona had most cases, least recusals in 2009

Of the five Superior Court judges, associate judge Ramona V. Manglona had the most number of assigned cases in 2009, according to Judiciary statistics released on Monday.

Manglona had 2,099 assigned cases, putting her in front for the most number of assigned cases, while presiding judge Robert C. Naraja had the fewest, with 445.

Manglona's number was very high because she handled the most common cases filed—traffic. A total of 1,938 payable and non-payable traffic cases were filed on Saipan.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos handled 721 cases; associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo had

717; and associate judge David Wiseman, 521.

As for recusals or judges who disqualified themselves from handling certain cases in 2009, statistics show that Manglona had the least number of recusals, while Inos had the most. Manglona had four; Inos had 33.

Wiseman had seven recusals; and Govendo, Wiseman, and Naraja each had 14.

Pertaining to trials, Govendo conducted the most number of trials—27 bench trials, while Naraja had the least—10 bench trials and two jury trials.

Inos had 26 trials; Manglona had 16; and Wiseman had 14. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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AS THE SAYING GOES, "ONE MAN'S JUNK IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE."

50 pct. tax break eyed for those with at least 80 pct. citizen employees

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Rep. Frederick Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) pre-filed yesterday a bill providing an option for employers to avail of a tax break of 50 percent if 80 percent of the people they employ are U.S. citizens.

"I believe that this bill will provide an incentive for companies to begin hiring U.S. citizens as we transition toward the year 2014. As it stands we know that there will be an exodus of foreign workers comes 2014," Guerrero said.

His House Bill 17-151 seeks to establish an economic stimulus program for employers

employing U.S. citizens.

The program, to be administered by the Department of Finance, gives qualified businesses 50 percent tax abatement.

"With our economy the way it is and our bloated government, we need to find ways to make this transition easier, at the same time provide employment opportunities for our people," Deleon Guerrero added.

Those eligible to avail of this tax abatement are businesses employing at least 10 workers in the CNMI.

"From the date of issuance of the Economic Stimulus Certificate, there shall be a 50 percent abatement of taxes and

fees, of whatever nature paid or to be paid to the Commonwealth, provided that taxes and fees under 2 CMC 7132

(Building Permits) are not subject to abatement," HB 17-151 states.

Tax abatements will only be

granted at the time of filing of required tax returns.

Any person found falsifying any documentation to meet the

provisions of this program will be fined up to \$10,000 or not more than one year in prison, or both.

2 ex-convicts allegedly steal typhoon shutters

Two notorious ex-convicts were arrested on Sunday, this time for allegedly stealing aluminum typhoon shutters from a gasoline station's storage room in San Jose.

Ronald R. Kaipat, 34, and Daniel M. Delos Santos, 30, were detained for burglary and theft. Bail was set at \$11,000 cash each. Preliminary hearing will be on Feb. 1 at 1:30pm.

Detective Buddy S. Igitol stated in his report that a patrol officer had responded to the Mobil gas station in San Jose on Sunday at 1:08am after the Department of Public Safety received a report about a burglary and theft incident.

Igitol said a police officer joined the patrol officer in searching the area after getting information that the suspects were still in the vicinity.

One officer spotted two men running south to the back of the

Modern Stationary.

Officer John Wabol saw about 30 pieces of typhoon shutters stacked on a wooden table at the back portion of Modern Stationary. A witness said the shutters were the ones taken from the gas station's storage room.

The witness told Wabol the respective homes of the suspects.

Police officers later arrested Delos Santos at his residence, while Kaipat was picked up near the former Morgan's Building.

Court records show that Kaipat and Delos Santos have several convictions for various criminal charges, mostly burglary, theft, and assault and battery. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Workshop on green turtle conservation kicks off

A workshop that aims to discuss cultural needs and traditions related to green turtles and how they can be integrated to management and conservation of the species began yesterday.

Organized by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, the Mariana Archipelago Green Turtle Workshop will be in full swing until Jan. 27 at the Lilac Room of the Saipan World Resort.

Workshop participants

include representatives of government agencies, conservation groups, cultural practitioners, fishermen, students, and other organizations from Saipan, Guam, Japan, and the Philippines.

The first day of the workshop featured presentations concerning the current status of green turtles in the Mariana Archipelago as well as the overview and progress of the green turtle recovery plan.

Presenters also discussed the implementation, require-

ments, and compliance with the Endangered Species Act and local laws.

Today, the workshop will focus on the status of green turtles in Japan and the Philippines and the prospective international collaboration between the Marianas and the two nations.

Cultural practices and traditions associated with green turtles and ways to integrate them with conservation activities will highlight the last day of the workshop.

Dr. Craig Severance, a member of the council's Science and Statistical Committee, said the workshop is an opportunity to develop worldwide collaboration by interacting and listening to each view "carefully and respectfully."

"The whole idea of balancing cultural traditions and Western science is we want to find a good balance," added protected species coordinator Asika Ishizaka. *(Clarissa David)*

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Investors explore NMI potential for offshore aquaculture

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Foreign investors could soon be looking at the Commonwealth's potential in aquaculture ventures following today's start of the two-day Open Ocean Cage Culture symposium.

Randy Cates of Cates International and Neil A. Sims of Kona Blue disclosed during a meeting with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos yesterday that the CNMI can become the next expansion site of businesses in aquaculture—an industry that could play a big part in the CNMI's economic recovery.

Today, Cates and Sims are among the key speakers in the symposium sponsored by the

Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council at the Saipan World Resort.

The symposium will focus on the development and advancement of an aquaculture industry based on raising high-value fin fish species in off-shore cages. Both Sims and Cates said the initial investment for this industry ranges from \$5 million to \$10 million.

Saipan is surrounded by deep waters already close to the island. NMC said an open ocean cage culture is best situated in water depths from 50 to 200 feet. These depths can be found just outside the reef.

Cates and Sims pointed out, however, that the issue of territorial waters and regulatory frameworks are big factors that, if not rectified, will hamper the realization of off-shore aquaculture industry in the CNMI.

"The CNMI government needs to set up a structure regulatory framework that would allow at least 20 to 30 years because providing five to 10 years lease is not really viable for big investors to come in," said Sims, who shared how his company succeeded in the same industry in locations like Hawaii.

Like Chile and Norway, the CNMI can also make it big in offshore aquaculture, Cates said, provided "investments are in the

right areas, if the government and private sectors play the proper roles, and if the economics part of it falls into proper places."

He said he's now in the process of getting all the information he needs about the islands before a determination is made about expanding his business here.

Because the CNMI has no jurisdiction over its territorial waters, potential investors will most likely deal with the federal government. Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos assured, however, that the administration will lend whatever assistance is needed to ensure potential investments come in. He cited the submerged land bill now pending at the U.S. House of Representatives.

ment showed that Santos' involvement was minimal as he did not take part in the sexual assault of the victim.

Police said Santos confessed to being one of three persons who kidnapped the victim and that he only served as a lookout as one of them raped the student at Tank Beach on June 16.

Police said it was Hocog who first beat up the victim and raped her.

Police said the victim was walking toward Kagman High School when one suspect blocked her path. One grabbed her and beat her up repeatedly.

When the victim regained consciousness, she was outside an abandoned building several meters away from where she was attacked.

1 SO FAR

From Page 1

The CNMI E-2 investor visa allows foreign investors who are not otherwise immediately eligible to obtain U.S. visa classifications to remain in the CNMI through Dec. 31, 2014.

Washington, D.C.-based Kevin J. Cummings, chief of the USCIS Business and Foreign Workers Division, led a team from USCIS yesterday in separate presentations before members of the CNMI Legislature and the foreign business community on the CNMI-only E-2 nonimmigrant investor rule.

Cummings, when asked by lawmakers, said USCIS has so far received one application for a CNMI E-2 status.

Lawmakers and businesses asked a host of questions—from the eligibility requirements to application process, what to expect after 2014, options for Russian and Chinese investors after 2014, and whether the CNMI-only status can be extended beyond 2014, among other things.

At the same time, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan expressed the frustration of employers in the CNMI who have long been waiting for the release of the transitional worker rule and the conduct of a prevailing wage survey.

He said a prevailing wage survey is needed for these employers to start petitioning their foreign workers for federal work visa or H-visa.

"We need the prevailing wage [survey] here because if we don't,

they are going to use Guam wages and that's much higher, or the national averages, that's unacceptable," Sablan said.

He said he has identified a source of federal funding to be able to conduct the prevailing wage survey, but he said the Fitial administration needs to open its labor and immigration identification system or LIIDS to help with the survey.

Sablan, at the USCIS presentation, said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's lawsuit was also a factor in the delay in the release of the worker rule.

"Businesses here are going to get hurt without this prevailing wage survey. So it's in our interest to cooperate with these people," he said, adding that the federal and local governments need to work together to resolve outstanding issues on the worker rule.

Sablan said there has been no forward movement when it comes to addressing the labor needs of the CNMI.

"We're not moving at all. We're moving around in circles. Businesses here complain to me, and it's not the federal government's fault, it's nobody fault; we all need to cooperate and move forward; it's a two-way street," he said.

Also at the USCIS presentation on Capital Hill were USCIS field office director Walter Haith, Darlene Kutara, and Lynette Ecle from the California Service Center.

USCIS is one of the agencies under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which is the lead entity in implementing the federal takeover of CNMI immigration.

Kagman rape case sentencing delayed

»Defendant asks OAG to re-file case vs three co-defendants

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Angel Jess Santos, a 21-year-old man who agreed to a plea bargain for his participation in the rape of a 16-year-old Kagman student, urged the Office of the Attorney General yesterday to re-file the charges against his three co-defendants.

Santos, through counsel Joseph James Norita Camacho, asked the CNMI government to pursue the re-filing of charges against Alfred P. Hocog, Joseph C. Camacho Jr., and Ivan Jones Castro.

"Even now Mr. Angel Santos wants to do the right thing in

this serious and heinous crime by testifying against the three co-defendants," attorney Joseph Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

Santos' sentencing was originally set for yesterday, but Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman postponed the sentencing hearing for 90 days. Wiseman said he will issue a written order.

Santos has been in detention at the Department of Corrections since his arrest on June 18, 2010. He failed to post a \$100,000 cash bail.

Santos pleaded guilty to the charge of conspiracy to commit sexual assault in the first degree

as part of a plea agreement with the government. Pursuant to the plea agreement, he will be sentenced upon completion of the trial. Under the plea agreement, the jail term to be imposed on Santos is not less than 10 years, but not more than 20 years.

Attorney Camacho pointed out that Santos' cooperation with the government led to the arrest of the three co-defendants.

Last month, the government moved to dismiss without prejudice the case against Joseph Camacho Jr., Hocog, and Castro. Wiseman granted the motion.

Attorney Joseph Camacho said the facts of the plea agree-

with total expenses of \$2,500; a meeting with Chinese officials in August 2007, with expenses totaling \$5,000; and a trip to China to meet potential investors in September 2007, which cost \$5,163. The rest were for meetings with local leaders on Saipan and Rota.

San Nicolas' trip expenses in 2007 totaled \$24,274 and he received \$4,910 in per diem allowances.

The former mayor traveled the most in 2008, with 17 trips and total travel expenses of \$44,773. Among these trips was the two-day Tinian Girl Scouts exchange program in

the Philippines in November, which incurred expenses totaling \$10,000.

Another trip to Manila was recorded in March 2008 to meet with potential investor HWK Environmental Inc., with expenses amounting to \$6,087; another trip to escort senior citizens to Manila in May 2008, with the tab totaling \$7,591; another \$4,000 to escort *man'amko* for executive checkups in Manila, also in May; a trip to Korea to meet potential investors in July 2008, which cost \$3,661; and a trip to China in September 2008 to meet with

Hydromix Co. and attend an annual Pacific conference, with expenditures totaling \$7,107. The rest were small trips to Saipan and Rota to meet with the governor, delegation members, and Rota mayor. San Nicolas was paid \$4,365 in per diem allowance for all these trips.

In fiscal year 2009, the mayor slowed down, recording just nine trips and incurring \$23,495 in expenses: per diem at \$855; tickets, \$1,913; stipend, \$25; official representation, \$20,042; and car rentals, \$660.

Among the trips he made during this period was one to

Manila in November 2008 to assist medical referral patients, incurring \$5,000 in expenses; a trip to Palau for the president's inauguration in January 2009 with total expenses of \$4,674; another trip to the Philippines in January 2009 for an abalone training, where he spent \$7,496; and another \$3,434 for a Manila trip in June 2009 to pick up the abalone for an aquaculture project.

The travel records of elected Tinian leaders are just among the many documents that island resident Kimberly King-Hinds had requested from the municipality.

FORMER

From Page 1

Open Government Act request showed that the Tinian municipality spent \$78,934 for San Nicolas' official representation in various events. It includes: \$10,291 for plane tickets; \$2,180 for car rentals; \$80 for stipend; and \$11,870 in per diem allowance for all these trips covering fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

In fiscal year 2006, San Nicolas went on 11 official business trips and spent \$10,812 for tickets, per diem, stipend, official representation, and car rentals.

TO MOVE

From Page 1

Besides determining that DCCA, along with DPS, is over-staffed and has employees with overlapping functions, MAI had also recommended renaming DCCA to Department of Human Services so it would be more focused in its mission of providing

services to the poor.

MAI also recommends moving DCCA's Juvenile Detention Facility to the Department of Corrections, and moving DCCA's Juvenile Probation Unit to the Superior Court.

It also recommends moving the DCCA Sports and Recreation functions to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association.

Inos reiterated that his team

will soon determine which specific DCCA functions will be transferred to other agencies.

MAI said that DCCA's other divisions—including the Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission, the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, and the Historic Preservation Office—should be moved under the Office of the Resident Director for Indigenous Affairs.

Pagapular.

Stewart revealed how he was inspired by these students who wrote to him and to government officials to ban shark finning in the CNMI after watching his film, which documents how the exploitation and corruption of the shark population can drive these sophisticated predators to extinction.

According to Stewart, he flew

to Saipan in support of the signing of a bill that would totally ban shark finning in the CNMI and make the territory one of the first places in the world to entirely ban shark fins.

House Bill 17-94, which seeks to prohibit any person from possessing, selling, offering for sale, trading or distributing shark fins on the islands except for subsistence purposes,

is expected to be signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Thursday.

"It's an incredible, positive outcome, all because these sixth grade students decided that what's going on is not right," he said.

Stewart, who also discussed and showed behind-the-scenes footage of *Sharkwater* at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center on Jan. 24, said that what is happening in the CNMI

is one success story and is a step toward preservation of ecosystems and its various components, including sharks.

"No other animal in the planet has remained unchanged for 400 million years and survived five major extinctions like sharks," he said, adding that the documentary also aims to change the negative perception about sharks.

CNMI

From Page 1

profiling the CNMI in the film's sequel and have the islands featured in Canadian Broadcasting Corp. and Entertainment Tonight to tell the world about an amazing and inspiring story on realizing a policy to protect sharks.

"The role of Saipan in the next

PSS: 2 teachers denied access to juvenile center

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan said two teachers assigned to provide instruction at the Kagman Juvenile Center have been denied access to the detention unit. The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has denied this.

Although the detention unit is under the DCCA's Division of Youth Services, the educational program has to be coordinated with PSS.

"We have actually identified two highly qualified teachers to provide the service...but they're not being allowed access," said Sablan.

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao said yesterday there is no record at the department to indicate that there was a visit by two

teachers to the unit.

"What we have is a teacher for those juveniles under the individual education plan, or for the special education program. But for the regular clients in the center, no teacher up to now has been provided by PSS," Faisao told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan pointed out that teachers for special education children are also qualified to teach regular clients. "They are ready to go in anytime they are permitted access."

Since September last year, four youths at the Kagman Juvenile Facility have not received instructions.

According to Faisao, the memorandum of agreement between DCCA and the Public

School System expired last September and a new one has been submitted to PSS, which the latter has been sitting on.

This was confirmed by Sablan.

"The MOA is under refinement. It is still in the making because we have to assure that the services and requirements are completely defined. This is about PSS staff providing services to a detention unit and we have to ensure their safety. That's the primary concern," she said.

Faisao is optimistic that both agencies will soon be signing a new agreement that will detail the programs and responsibilities of each party.

He disclosed that many of the regular clients at the juvenile center are dropout students.

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IT&E on track with infrastructure upgrades using ARRA funds

IT&E continues progress on a multi-million dollar infrastructure upgrade fueled with over

\$8 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The latest phase of the project centers around the relocation of the Data and Network Opera-

tion Center from Chalan Laulau to IT&E's headquarters in Su-supe. The new location offers

increased space that will accommodate additional racks to support the growth of IT&E's data



network and well as a sufficient backup

power system.

The initial stages of the project began with intensive site preparation at both locations in September 2010. IT&E staffers have been responsible for the on-site improvements in advance of the move, including the repainting of both facilities and the installation of two new air-conditioning units that will serve the NOC.

According to IT&E senior systems administrator and project manager Richie Dumlao, his team has run cable between the buildings and established fiber connectivity ahead of the arrival of the network and server racks that are currently en route from the United States.

"We are estimating that the network rack installation and cabling will commence by mid-February. Installation of the Multi-Protocol Label Switching equipment and transfer of the network devices from the old data center will follow," said Dumlao.

The racks are expected to arrive in the Marianas before the end of the month and the overall project is scheduled to be completed within the next six months.

Dumlao credited all members of the IT&E team that have assisted with the project, including Eric Tudela, Seven Tan, Ronald Fuellas, Nick Carreon, Ray Deleon Guerrero, Ramir De Leon, Ben Salas, Joe Guerrero, Ray Tenorio, Allen Palacios, Ed Javier, Nadine Aquino, Percy Omechel, Frank Camacho, Fred Hill and Velma Palacios.

For more information about IT&E's coverage and services, contact IT&E Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483) at IT&E Customer Service on Middle Road. (IT&E)



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to discuss constituent issues with

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

112th Congress

United States House of Representatives

Friday, January 28, 2011

9:30 am.

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Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030
Email: p.sablan@cnmicdd.org • Website: www.cnmicdd.org



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice of its 2011 First (1st) Quarterly Meeting to be held on Monday, January 31, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Public Health Conference Room, Saipan.

Agenda

- I. Welcome & Introduction (new members, staffs, or guests)
- II. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- III. Review and Adoption of November 19, 2010 Meeting Minutes
- IV. Action Items
 - a. Amendment to FY2011 Propose DD Basic State Grant & AT Project Budget
 - b. Review & Adoption of Draft Position Statement on H.B. 17-43, "To establish a CNMI Office of Transit Authority within the Office of the Governor."
- V. Reports
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Executive Director
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chair
 - d. State Plan Committee Pro-Temp Chair
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Status: Call-A-Ride-RFP
- VII. New Business
 - a. Appointment of Consumer Member (required as per ADD instruction)
 - b. FY 2010 Annual Program Performance Report (APPR)
 - c. 2012-2016 Five-Year State Plan Goal Development
- VIII. Executive Session
- IX. Misc.
- X. Next 2nd Quarter Meeting-April 2011
- XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to PL. 8-41, Section 13 (a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments on any of the items listed in the agenda.

/s/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293
Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

CNMI Governor Benigno R. Fitial, on *December 30, 2010*, approved and issued *Qualifying Certificate No. QC 2010-01* for *Sandy Beach Homes, LLC* ("the Beneficiary").

Address. The address of the Beneficiary is *Chalan Kanoa*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

Investment. The Beneficiary will invest approximately \$28.2 million to construct a residential complex in *Chalan Kanoa*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more detailed information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Pursuant to Qualifying Certificate Rules and Regulations, this ad is paid by the Applicant



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CUC to retain PMIC's 10-year contract to run Power Plant 4

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. intends to retain its existing 10-year contract with Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., the independent power producer that runs Power Plant 4 for CUC, according to executive director Abe Utu Malae yesterday.

The contract, inked in 2006 by then executive director Anthony Guerrero, provides for CUC to pay PMIC \$4.32 million annually, for a total of \$43.2 million during the contract's 10-year span ending in 2016.

"Yes, CUC intends to continue its existing contract with PMIC. CUC has no intention to breach this contract. It was there to assist us when power generation collapsed in 2008," said Malae.

CUC recently submitted the PMIC contract to the court pursuant to the requirements of two stipulated orders that mandates CUC to comply with the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Malae said the stipulated orders apply to all Saipan power plants, including Power Plant 4. He said the PMIC contract was submitted to the court to explain the relationship between the agency and the independent power producer.

"Our main concern is that all the deliverables under the second SO are met and delivered to [the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency] according to the consent decree. So far, PMIC has been cleaning up the oil at power plant 4," he added.

SO No. 2 deals with oil issues at the power plants: tank cleanouts, construction of secondary containment areas, integrity testing, and oil transfers.

Malae disclosed that PMIC is paid based on kilowatt-hours provided to feeders, with a minimum monthly payment amount. It was learned that there is a minimum amount of kWh that PMIC must be able to provide as needed by CUC.

The original contract with PMIC was inked in 1991; it was amended in 1996. Under the amended agreement, the contract is good for 10 years, or until July 31, 2006.

CUC has been under a state of emergency since 2008 due to poor services. Since then, the agency has been working to rectify concerns, including power generation and water and wastewater problems.

Once deliverables and all requirements of the stipulated orders are satisfied, it is expected that CUC will be in a better position to serve the islands.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 26, 1999

CNMI gets \$250,000 from health settlement deal

The Northern Marianas yesterday received \$250,000 from federal law enforcement officials as part of a settlement deal with a US-based health care provider that made illegal payments to a former commonwealth official for consultancy services. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio received the check handed over by federal officials which will go to the medical referral program of the Northern Marianas. The civil settlement also included payment of \$1.1 million to the US Department of Justice, Mikel W. Schwab, assistant US attorney, told a press conference attended by the governor.

30 pct. retirement bonus cut backed

The Senate is likely to support a pending House measure that will seek removal of the 30 percent retirement bonus for civil service employees in light of the shrinking government revenues. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said he would favor a repeal of the existing law that provides the benefit to retiring government employees despite the tight financial situation in the CNMI. "We should start cutting this benefit," he told in an interview. "We don't have the money to give retirees the bonus." But the senator maintained he would propose a time frame before removing the retirement benefit to allow employees to train subordinates if they opt to retire to avail of the bonus.

Jan. 26, 2000

Legislature, CUC set stage for Saipan power plant bidding

Lawmakers and utility officials yesterday agreed to forge ahead with the much-delayed power project for Saipan, this time by working closely together during the forthcoming bidding process that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will undertake by next month. In a meeting between members of the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications from both houses of the Legislature and CUC Board, questions on the controversial project were raised, while mapping out next course of action by the government-owned utility corporation. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, PUTC chair in the upper house, said the Legislature had asked the board to get its inputs and recommendations on the project before it invites bidders to offer proposals for a 60-megawatt power plant.

DPH seeks more funds to match fed grants

The Department of Public Health is seeking a \$33.9 million budget for Fiscal Year 2001 as the Medicaid Program continues to be under funded due to budgetary constraints. DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez yesterday said the CNMI government is having difficulty in matching the federal grant of close to \$1.9 million. Currently, the department is only able to provide close to \$200,000 in local funds. A huge amount of money for medical referral program has been saved with the hiring of specialists from the U.S. mainland but some of the cases that they have recently for treatment in U.S. hospitals have been serious illnesses which are very expensive.

Jan. 26, 2001

Groups bat for increased health awareness

Citing the growing concerns on various health issues, at least 15 agencies involved in the field of medicine will hold a simultaneous activities on Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Power 99 FM and The Rock Senior Account Executive Chris Belanger yesterday said the Health and Fitness Fair 2001 is a collaborative effort of health organizations, health insurance providers and health experts in the Northern Marianas. The fair will provide the community on-hand information and variety of health-related and fitness topics including preventative measures, treatments and demonstrations.

WSR opens new food facility

William S. Reyes Elementary School served yesterday meals to its students for the first time at its newly-constructed cafeteria with, not surprisingly, an eager number of takers wanting to set foot on the \$543,000-worth facility. The WSR food court is the Public School System's newest addition to the series of Capital Improvement Projects targeted to reach completion this year, spearheaded by the State Board of Education CIP Committee. PSS officials and construction managers gathered yesterday for a brief ribbon cutting ceremony that paid recognition to the successfully-formed partnership between the BOE, the school system, Department of Public Works, legislators, and North Pacific Builders, the project contractor.

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 151 R 01, containing an area of approximately 8,049 square meters, more or less, situated in Sabana, Rota. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The lessee is Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation d.b.a. IT&E, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Ricardo C. Delgado, Jovino G. Lorenzo, Jr., Jose Ricardo PR Delgado, E. Norbert Garrett, Robert R. Anderson, Jose S. Dela Cruz, John Noel Doherty, Keiji Ikemura, and Masao Miyamoto.

The President of the Corporation is Jose Ricardo PR Delgado. The Treasurer is Lawrence P. Knecht. The Secretary is Fe D. Vicencio.
- iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Lawrence P. Knecht.
- iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of maintaining and operating telecommunications transmitters, antennas, and activities related thereto.

The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.
- v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; in Songsong, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Sabana, Rota.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before February 4, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN INEKSTENDEN INATKILON TANO' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku guini ha nã'i notisia ni intesion-ña para u rekomenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na táno' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Este na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuheto para i inapruuban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas gi sigun ni mamánda ni mapega huyong gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha háyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku henerát siña ha na'hálom i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon táno' pupbliku. Sigi mäs mo'na mapribeniyi ginen i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesen imfotmasion ni madimánda ni debi na u mapuplika.

- i. I lugát atkilon siha madeskribe komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 151 R 01, kinonsiste árian kási guaha 8,049 square meters, potlumenus mäs, ni gaige gi Sabána Luta. I kopian i pumalu na lugát gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikonosimiento.
- ii. I manatikikila i Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation d.b.a. IT & E, i CNMI na Korporasion. I Kuetpon i Direktot siha gi Korporasion si Ricardo C. Delgado, Jovino G. Lorenzo, Jr., Jose Ricardo PR Delgado, E. Norbert Garrett, Robert R. Anderson, Jose S. Dela Cruz, John Noel Doherty, Keiji Ikemura, yan si Masao Miyamoto.

I Presidenten i Korporasion si Ricardo PR Delgado. I Tresurário si Lawrence P. Knecht. I Sekritário si Fe D. Vecencio.
- iii. I mapropone na ekstension atkilon manegosio gi as Siñot Lawrence P. Knecht.
- iv. I manatikikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugát siha uniku para i rason i maneran maintaining yan operating telecommunications transmitters, antennas yan maseha háfa na mana'achule' na aktibidát siha guihi.

I teman i kontrátan atkilon ha ekstende gi 15 áños.
- v. Kopian i manmapropone na ekstension atkilon na kontráta siha siña machule' gi ofisinan i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha, gaige gi segundo bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Songsong, Luta; pat i primet 1st floor gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. I Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha táya' ha risibi tinahguen propositu siha para suheton atkilon táno' pupbliku siha gi Sabána, Luta.
- vii. I Sekritáron i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinige' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat ántes di Fibreru 4, 2011 gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha ni gaige Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sow Ffeerul Allegh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer nge rebwe isisilong aghiighiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekki bwáári Lot No. 151 R 01, ebwe eyoor walangaras ebwughuw faigh me tiwoow (8, 049), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Sabana Luuta. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Micronesian Corporation d.b.a. IT&E CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil assamwool kkaal mellol Corporation nge Richard C. Delgado, Juvino G. Lorenzo, Jr., Jose Ricardo PR Delgado, E. Norbert Garrett, Robert R. Anderson, Jose S. Dela Cruz, John Noel Doherty, Keiji Ikemura, me Masao Miyamoto.

Samwoolul Corporation nge Jose Ricardo PR Delgado. Treasurer nge Lawrence P. Knecht. Sekkeretoria nge Fe D. Vicencio
- iii. Schóól aweweel pomwol akkilon ye e sobwosobw nge Mr Lawrence P. Knecht.
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe ammwela bwuley me ayoora Telecommunications transmitters, antennas, me lamal kka eyoor Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years)
- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Songsong, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Mááischigh (February) 4, 2011 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipáttamenton I Tano’ Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE

In accordance with Public Law 5-33, Section 4(b) (3) the Public Purpose Land Exchange Authorization Act, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to enter into an exchange agreement to certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the exchange of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 5-33, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The purposed of the land exchange is to acquire a private property for encroachment. The private property is described as T.D. 474 containing an area of 30,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Rota.
- ii. The public land to be exchange is described as Lot No. 047 I 03, containing an area of 1,034 square meters, Lot No. 047 I 05, containing an area of 7,900 square meters, and Lot No. 031 I 03, containing an area of 3,000 square meters more or less, located in As Gonno, Saipan., Lot No. 051 L 01, containing an area of 640 square meters, more or less, located in Obyan, Saipan.,
- iii. The private property is owned by Mr. Domingo A. Ulloa a resident of Rota.
- iv. A copy of the proposed land exchange agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.
- v. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before February 11, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN MA’ATULAIKAN TANO’ PUBLIKU

Sigun gi halom I Lai Publiku 5-33 Seksiona 4 (b)(3), Public Purpose Land Exchange Act, I Depattamenton I Tano' Publiku guini ha nã' i notisia i intension-ña para u ma' atulaikan pumalu na tano' publiku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha háyi manentiresão na petsona siha gi halom I publiku henerá siña munna'hálom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen i propositu siha para I uma' atulaikan I tano' publiku. Komu mäs mapribeniyi ginen Lai Publiku 5-33, pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimánda na para u mapuplika.

- i. I maproponen i ma' atulaikan tano' para uma' chule I tano' private para chalan publiku. I diskripsion I tineteka na tano' komo T.D. 474, sais mit kuarto sento benti i aria 30,000 square meter, potlumenus mäs, yan, gaige giya Luta.
- ii. I diskripsion i tano' publiku Lot No 047 I 03, kinensisite i aria 1, 034 square meters, Lot No. 047 I 05, kinensisite i aria 7,900 square meters, Lot No. 031 I 03 kinensisite i aria 3,000 square meters potlumenus mã, gaige giya As Gonno, Saipan. Yan Lot No. 051 L 01 kinensiste I aria 640 square meters potlumenus ma, gaige giya Obyan, Saipan.
- iii. I dwennon tano' si Mr. Domingo A Ulloa, residenten Rota.
- iv. I kopian a maproponen i ma' atulaikan tano' siña machule' gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Publiku, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan.
- v. I Secretarian i Depattamenton Tano' Publiku para hu aksepta I tinigi' i opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen i mapropone na ma' atulakan tano' publiku antes osino gi dia February 11, 2011 gi Depattamenton Tano'.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL SIHWELIL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Alléghúl Toulap 5-33 Section 4 (b)(3), Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe siiwel eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiighiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol siiwel yeel. Alléghú Toulap ye 5-3 Section 4 (b)(3) e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol siiwelil falúweer toulap nge ekki bwáári T.D. 474, eyoor olongaras faabwúghúw ruwigh (30,000 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Rota Seipél. Tilighial buley yeel nge, eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap ngáre óubwe ghuley fischey.
- ii. Falúweer toulap yeel nge Lot No. 047 I 03, Lot No. 047 I 05, Lot No. 031 I 03 and Lot No. 051 L 01, eyoor limangaras tiwabwúghúl ruwigh me eluuw Lots 047 I 03, 047 I 05, 031 I 03 and 051 L 01 lapel falúw ye, elo As Gonno and Obyan, Seipél.
- iii. Mr. Domingo A Ulloa elollo Rota, yaal falúw ye ebwe siiwel ngale falúweer toulap.
- iv. Tilghial siiwel yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel mwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building loll Tuturam, Seipel.
- v. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal February 11, 2011, mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipé.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The union's slow recovery

When President Obama delivers his annual State of the Union speech on Tuesday, he'll have to deal with a grim political reality: Although polls show Americans overwhelmingly like him—83 percent in the latest Associated Press-GfK poll—more than half disapprove of the way he's handled the economy.

They have reason to be disappointed. Although the recession is over, unemployment endures. Meanwhile, the housing market remains weak and increasing budget deficits raise fears that the national debt will become completely unmanageable.

Mr. Obama's task is to give a balanced accounting of his economic recovery efforts, which should acknowledge that he only belatedly recognized the depth of the economic downfall and thus failed to make jobs creation a top priority at the beginning of his presidency.

What Americans need to hear is how he plans to put the jobless back to work and his plan to revive the housing market.

Yet any fair accounting of his economic stewardship should also highlight the successes, along with the failures.

Saving the American auto industry, which had been driven into a ditch by decades-long bad management practices, counts as a major victory. The federal government played a pivotal role in the comeback of the GM car company and helped to put Chrysler on a path to recovery. GM earned about \$2 billion in the third quarter, allowing the government to reduce its stake to 35 percent.

The bailout began in late 2008, before Mr. Obama became president, but he rightly continued pumping money into the industry after he reached the White House. He also deserves credit for the tough love that forced the resignation of former GM CEO Rick Wagoner and his replacement with a new team.

Ultimately, taxpayers will still take a hit from the auto bailout—the government poured \$63 billion into GM, Chrysler and auto finance companies. Ideally, the industry should never have required any government help. Nevertheless, survival of an iconic American industry and the hundreds of thousands of jobs it provides stands as a solid achievement.

The latest sign that the bailout—which began under President Bush and for which the Federal Reserve also deserves credit—has worked is the announcement that the American International Group had repaid its obligations to the Fed. This company, which was at the center of the mortgage meltdown, received a \$130-billion bailout. That's a major milestone and suggests that the U.S. Treasury might soon be able to sell some of its remaining stock in A.I.G.

Last October, Treasury reported nearly 80 percent of the bailout money given to banks had been paid back to the government. Treasury expects to lose \$29 billion from the overall bailout, much of it from the auto bailout. That's far below the \$350 billion the Congressional Budget Office had estimated.

The U.S. economy is not out of the woods yet. Mr. Obama and his Republican adversaries have a responsibility to work together to put Americans back to work.

Last year, a GOP congressman yelled, "You lie," during Mr. Obama's speech. It's a sign of the times that merely avoiding such rude outbursts this year will be taken as an indication of progress.

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I believe in
American
exceptionalism......that the U.S.
occupies a
special place*
in the world...* The only rich
nation without
guaranteed
health care.

Considering two Bush approaches to Iraq

Former President George H.W. Bush is hosting a commemoration of the 1991 Persian Gulf War on Thursday at Texas A&M, designed to celebrate a signal success of his administration and show the benefits of a well-organized international venture with a logical, attainable goal.

But it also will provide a tacit contrast with the more ambitious, less successful undertaking that his son, President George W. Bush, led against Iraq for which the country continues to pay a high human, diplomatic and fiscal price.

As such, it underscores why the 1991 war seems likely to burnish the first Bush's historical legacy, while the years-long struggle that began with the 2003 invasion detracts from the second's because it created more problems than it solved.

It seems unlikely the event's organizers had that contrast in mind, given the elder Bush's consistently strong public support for his son and the strong Bush familial ties. A main organizer, Texas A&M's George Bush School of Government and Public Service, is headed by Ryan Crocker, a distinguished diplomat whose ambassadorial postings in the region spanned the Bush presidencies.

Besides Crocker, participants who played key roles under both Bushes include Dick Cheney, secretary of defense for the first and vice president for the second; and Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and later secretary of state.

Their presence accentuates the contrast. In the first Bush administration, Powell epitomized the goal of limiting the military effort to driving Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait. In the second, Cheney represented the majority urging a pre-emptive strike to oust Hussein, while Powell was a more reluctant supporter.

In retrospect, it seems evident that the son's problems stemmed in part from his failure to adhere to factors that made his father successful.

They include:

In 1990-91, the first President Bush was responding to Hussein's unprovoked invasion of Kuwait. Bush's effort was limited to ensuring, as he put it, that this "will not stand."

George W. Bush initiated the 2003 invasion for multiple reasons, though he most often cited Hussein's alleged development of weapons of mass destruction. The former president acknowledges in his new memoir, "Decision Points," that he was wrong and blames an "intelligence failure."

Because the issue was so clear-cut, the elder Bush succeeded in mobilizing a coalition of many countries, including major European and Middle East powers, and winning the backing of the Soviet Union. Some three-dozen countries supplied more than one-fourth of the troops.

By CARL LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

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His son had far more difficulty in winning allied backing. Though the coalition was equally large, it supplied a far smaller proportion of troops.

In 1991, Bush was able to mobilize a force large enough to complete the job quickly. Iraqi forces surrendered just six weeks after allied air attacks began.

After initial military successes, the 2003 invasion was hampered by insufficient troops — another error George W. Bush acknowledges — and costs proved far greater than estimates. When he left office nearly six years later, the U.S. still had 114,000 troops in Iraq and was still spending billions there.

The elder Bush stuck with his limited objective, expelling Iraqi forces from Kuwait, despite pressures to invade Iraq and oust Hussein.

By contrast, his son ignored warnings the U.S. would face severe problems as an occupying power, including a prescient one from 1998 by his father and former National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft. The result was years of insurgent resistance and many additional casualties and costs.

The quick end of the 1991 war and the elder Bush's maintenance of his limited objectives enabled him to build on the success to encourage broader Middle East progress. It helped produce important agreements between Israel and Jordan and the Palestinians in the ensuing Clinton administration.

By contrast, the extended military effort in Iraq after the 2003 invasion hampered efforts elsewhere, notably forcing George W. Bush to short-change the post-9/11 military operation in Afghanistan aimed at eliminating that country as a terrorist staging ground.

Reading Decision Points reminds one of the extent to which Iraq preoccupied the country and its government throughout the Bush presidency to a far greater extent than was warranted by its geopolitical importance.

Regardless of future progress, that stands in sharp contrast with the quick and efficient way his father dealt with the crisis Iraq precipitated by invading Kuwait.

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Conservative spending plan

Be it here or across the country, the primary economic challenge is money, specifically the lack of it. The crushing scarcity of funds to defray the cost of state governments isn't a reason for a taxpayer bailout.

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said this week that he believes states already have the tools they need to ease crushing budget deficits since they can cut spending, raise taxes, and pressure public employee unions to renegotiate their contracts and pension benefits.

The NMI once had plenty to spend when billions of dollars were recycled locally. The \$3 billion to 5 billion is gone! An additional \$1.5 billion earmarked for investments was scrapped in recent past. It proves it is capable of raising its own financial requirements. What went wrong that it's in a crushing metal box of debts?

This would be attributable to ill-conceived policies hailing from both sides of the Pacific divide. For instance, the feds wanted to impose the federal minimum wage here. It hastened the death of the apparel industry, not to mention small businesses that choked to death upon its implementation. It led to further contraction of private industries as the annual increases kicked in, the net effect being revenue degeneration. This as the entire global economy was on its way to the abyss of bankruptcy.

Over the last 32 years, the NMI also honed the habit of unprecedented spending binge. The good times of the late '80s and early '90s left no room for thoughtful planning and frugality. Who wants to worry about saving for that rainy day when there's plenty to spend? We were very happy campers!

Today, we are not happy campers. We see long faces, subdued mood, frustrated, confused, and sometimes brave enough to admit regret for not saving for that rainy day. But this must be an island where we declare, "don't worry, be happy," Uncle Sam will be here. He isn't coming, is he?

Spending binge blossomed wildly when we ignored approving a spending plan to quell cost overruns. That none is in place makes spending money we don't have the norm. This has encouraged imple-

It's a wonderful life of writing

By BILL PLASCHKE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—"W-w-w-hat is this?"

As he tore open the brightly colored paper, the boy's heart dropped. It was flat, so it wasn't a baseball or a glove.

He ran his fingers across the blue vinyl cover, touched the white sheets of paper, slowly bit his lip to keep from crying. This wasn't a Christmas present, it was a school supply. It was a binder filled with blank pages. The boy looked angrily over at the balding man wearing a weary smile and a stray piece of tinsel on his shoulder.

"I-I-I can't play with this," the boy said.

"Yes, you can," the father said.

The awkward, stammering eighth-grader slapped Jackson 5 and "Gilligan's Island" stickers on the binder to at least make it look cool, then tucked it into the bottom drawer next to his plaid shorts and forgot all about it. The next time he saw it was March, three months later, as he headed out to watch a sandlot baseball game. He had earlier announced to his family that when he grew up, he was going be a sportswriter, using the universal language of bats and balls to connect to a world he couldn't easily touch. On this day, he had finally worked up the courage to practice covering a game.

"Wait," said his father, emerging from the boy's bedroom, holding that dusty blue binder covered in stickers. "If you're going to be a sportswriter, you have to have a notebook."

"Oh y-y-yeah," the boy said. "My n-n-notebook."

And so he toted that binder to the baseball game, to a high school track meet the next day, somewhere new every weekend, wiping the dust off his giant glasses and pulling chewed pencils out of his wrinkled shirt pocket and filling that binder, reveling in words that worked, shouting in a voice that didn't stammer, adding exclamation points for the drama, Bobby Kleinart hit the heck out of that baseball for a home run off the concession stands for Westport Chevron, boxes of Good N' Plenty went flying, what a play!

Soon the white pages became full, and so more pages were carefully added, more baseballs clearing the fence, more snacks falling out of the sky, words written by a nobody for nobody, words meaning everything, the binder and the boy growing together.

"W-w-what is this?"

The gift sat in the basement, unwrapped, shiny and cluttered and weird. It was an electric typewriter given to a ninth-grader who had no idea how to use it. This wasn't a Christmas present, it was a third-period class.

"I-I-I can't type," the boy said.

menting programs we can't do well or have no business doing. A good example: The NMI Retirement Fund is slated to run dry in about nine years. The NMI owes the Fund over \$300 million it can no longer afford to pay.

It's a program seemingly placed on automatic pilot to sink into the abyss of insolvency. Such is the tendency when programs of this sort never benefited from any sense of foresight. It was approved based on intent but never the long-term effects of membership increases. It's such a generous program that includes a 30-percent bonus for retiring early. It opened up its own in-house housing program that was recently shut down.

As though the Fund is overflowing with excess money, it gave unearned pay to members who worked for the naval administration without blinking. And politicians ensured their share of the loot by giving themselves a 3 percent annual salary increases for serving as "low voltage" legislators. Today, we face the unpleasant fiscal disaster of insolvency as we incur more debts and larger debts too.

The bond obligation is being dangled before the eyes of taxpayers as the savior of the bloated debt of the Fund. They want what I call "taxpayer-funded-bailout" to scaffold a mounting debt, convinced that it's the Holy Grail to retiring a debt. This mindset is ludicrous given that incurring more debts simply means more debts—pure and simple—or \$200 million in deficit accumulation on top of the \$300 million now in the books, for a total of some \$500 million.

That the NMI no longer has the money to spend summons leadership to critically look at all government operations that compete with private industries for immediate cut. You find these duplications at DPW, CHC, PSS, DPS, DPL, CUC, DNL, CPA, MVA, among others.

Some even require complete privatization like CUC and half the role and functions of all the rest. One need not look elsewhere for a classic example of privatization. There's IT&E that was once government-operated. Look at its operations today. It won't be what it is now if it had remained in government hands, believe it or not.

The days of unbridled spending are history. There's no room to fat-

"But I can," his mother said. "Bring me your binder."

Its stickers had worn down into bits of shiny strips, and its vinyl was cracked and frayed, but the binder's pages still exhaled in the cluttered breath of scribbled observations—the Ballard High cross-country team is one tough cookie! His mother opened to his most recent story, turned a switch, started a strange whirl, and began pecking.

"W-w-what are you doing?" the boy said.

"Don't you want this in that newspaper?" the mother said.

Oh yeah. That newspaper. It was a neighborhood weekly that needed stories to fill the space between school announcements and mortuary ads. A month earlier, the boy visited their storefront offices, opening his binder, showing the balding old boss his stories, watching him slowly shake his head.

"Your handwriting is terrible," the boss said. "Did you know that newspapers use typewriters?"

He could not begin typing class until the summer, so his mother spent hours every weekend tapping his stories to life. He scribbled, and she typed, word for word, her third full-time job, sometimes falling asleep between paragraphs, but always finishing in time to say, "Great story" and "Let's go."

Then, together, in the middle of every Sunday night, the mother and the boy would ride through the darkened city to that newspaper's storefront, where the boy would slide that week's stories into a mail slot, then rush back to the car for the relieved drive home, the sportswriter and his ghost writer.

"W-w-hat is this?"

The gift was covered in light blue tissue paper, held together with a frayed red ribbon. The young man opened it carefully, forced a smile, scratched his head.

It was a scrapbook. But it was an empty scrapbook. It was two covers of ornate brown leather held together by dozens of empty pieces of gray construction paper. It was silly.

"T-t-his is great, but w-w-hat's going in it?" the young man asked.

"You," his grandmother said.

So for the next seven years, she put him there, filling the scrapbook with everything the young man wrote, for now he was an amateur sportswriter being published in any newspaper that would have him. The grandmother carefully cut and pasted every volleyball feature, shuffleboard column and flag football game story, everything from the neighborhood weekly, high school newspaper, and soon even from the tiny college newspaper. She underlined phrases in her careful handwriting. She drew her own exclamation points after words with more than one syllable. The book grew fat and messy as she grew old and frail.

The young man thought she was saving stories about other peo-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

ten our mañana syndrome anymore than we already did. The old tool (mañana) has suffered from massive stroke (call it bankruptcy) and the only means of survival is to proactively make a difference by critically paring down unprecedented spending binge of recent past. It's all in the palm of our hands. Grab it now and let's begin the first step together.

On the lighter side: My buddy Magoo is all smiles four days ago at Sunday Mass. I noticed his neatly parted hair shining brightly from his Japanese pomade.

"I'm making money now partner without having to lift a finger," he related.

"Did you open a small mom-and-pop store or something?"

"No! But I've leased all my mango tree, lemon, orange, tangerine, bananas at the old farm," he said.

There's no doubting his new business venture given the renowned competitive spirit of Chinese businessmen in most everything they do. In fact, these folks thrive so well under competitive settings they'd go the extra mile every time to make a buck. If there's no competition, they'd create one just to keep going.

It's called opportunity—seeing something that could generate revenue—and going straight at it to bring products to consumers who may need it. I still marvel at my buddy Magoo and his Sunday morning surprises. He's making money with a smile of an old grand daddy relishing the moment. Wish him well as he kicks back and pray for good weather throughout 2011.

ple. The grandmother knew better. She knew these would wind up being stories about a young man, chronicling his increased confidence, his diminished stammer, the slow realization of his dream.

"Dad, what was your best gift ever?"

The middle-aged man is sitting with his three children around a Christmas tree. He has been a sportswriter for more than half of his life now, still chasing that dream, still thankful it is a journey he has not taken alone. He looks at his children sitting amid the shiny torn wrapping paper, the kids covered in the solitary pleasures of iPods and Uggs and software programs that do things mothers and electric typewriters could never do. He wonders if he can ever give them what was given to him. He wonders if they will ever understand. One of them asks him again.

"Dad, what was your best gift ever?"

He looks up at a photo on the mantle. It is a 30-year-old family photograph. It contains the images of the father who still calls every other day to ask what he has in his notebook, the mother who now types him encouragement in e-mails, and the grandmother who died during his first year at one of this country's biggest newspapers. Before passing, she insisted that he stay on the job and skip her funeral. She insisted he write one more story for that scrapbook.

"Daaad! What was your best gift! C'mon."

He points to the photo.

"They were," he said.

Letter to the Editor

Hear ye






For the longest time, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was without a public information officer. For \$22 an hour on an on-call basis, I could settle for less to say a few sentences to the media. Branch managers should obviously speak to the media because they know all the answers of their respected departments even without a prepared statement. At the Department of Public Safety, their very own people in uniform address the media and it doesn't cost us taxpayers extra dollars and does not come with a contract. That \$22-an-hour is equivalent to purchasing 5 gallons of fuel for us customers. What hiring freeze? This is another classic example of poor judgment and a contribution to the CNMI deficit.

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 85° ▼ 77°	▲ 85° ▼ 77°	▲ 85° ▼ 77°	▲ 85° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Majuro	Rain	▲ 82 ▼ 76

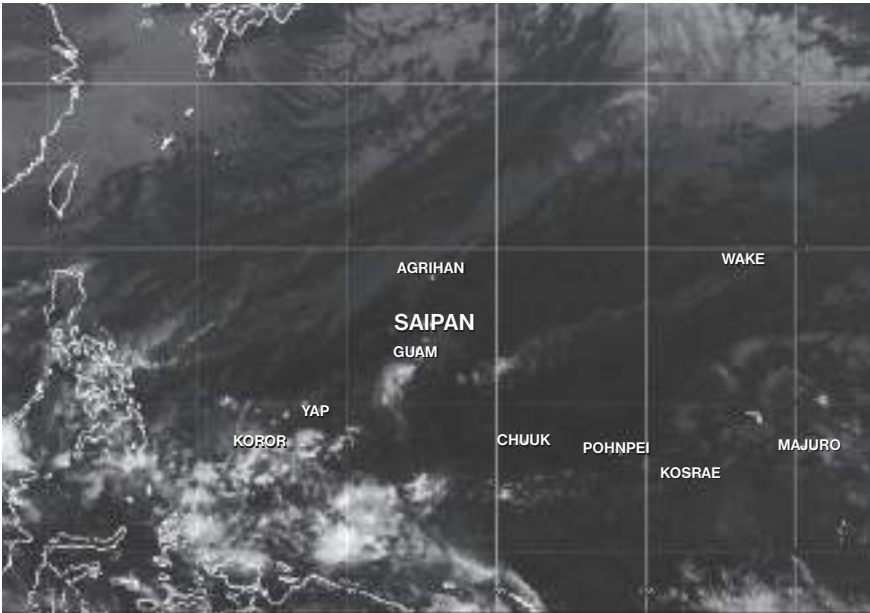
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 64
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 33 ▼ 14
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 50
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 39 ▼ 34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 49
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 59
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 78 ▼ 49
New York	Ice	▲ 38 ▼ 30
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 34
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 37 ▼ 28
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 38 ▼ 24
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 40
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 23 ▼ 11
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 33
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 41 ▼ 34

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:26 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet	
6:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet	
12:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
7:38 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front drops southwestward from 25N155E to near Asuncion Island or near 20N147E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 13N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary and north of a line from 25N150E to 23N165E. A surface trough extends northward from 10N143E to 14N146E. Scattered showers are occurring south and east of Guam within 50 miles of the trough axis. A near-equatorial trough curves west-northwestward south of Koror from EQ142E to beyond 130E at 1N. Scattered showers are found near Koror or within 100 miles of a line from 5N133E to 8N140E and farther south south of a line from 5N130E to 2N134E to 6N146E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:22 AM
Thursday	12:29 AM 12:10 PM
Friday	1:28 AM 1:02 PM
Saturday	2:26 AM 1:55 PM
Sunday	3:22 AM 2:51 PM

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Rotary to give free dictionaries to public school students

Fusco is Rotary's newest member

Ron Fusco joined the roster of business, professional, and community leaders of the Rotary Club of Saipan after being inducted to the organization.

Rotary president Glen Perez inducted Fusco, who was sponsored by Rotarian David Sablan, during the service club's regular meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

A graduate of Construction Management, Fusco worked for the Department of Public Works under the Trust Territory government.

According to Fusco, he had spent his time in his hometown in Vermont over the last 10 years to deal with family matters.

"I am now ready to con-

centrate with the rest of my life here on Saipan," he added.

Fusco, who is married to Commonwealth Zoning Board member Herminia Fusco, is currently occupied with his family's real estate business.

The Rotary Club of Saipan is among the 33,000 clubs in



Fusco

over 200 countries that provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

All clubs are non-political and non-religious and are signified by their motto, "Service Above Self." (Clarissa David)

Over 1,000 dictionaries are ready for distribution to third grade students of public schools in the CNMI.

Rotary Club of Saipan vocational services director Jeff Boyer said the project, which was conceptualized last year, is Rotary's latest and aims to benefit the community's young population.

"The idea came out of a project sponsored by another Rotary Club in Guam and we thought it would be a nice, new project for the Rotarians," he said.

According to Boyer, research shows that third grade students are at the age when they will better absorb information from reference materials such as dictionaries.

"That's why we have this program designed for these

students," he said, adding this would be the first time the Rotary Club will give out free dictionaries to students.

Boyer told *Saipan Tribune* that the 1,020 dictionaries they purchased just arrived and will be distributed to third grade public school students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in two weeks.

Rotary plans to make the project an annual event.

"Depending on funding levels, we also plan to give free dictionaries to third grade private school students as well," added Boyer.

Among the annual projects spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Saipan are the Las Vegas Night, the Parade of Books, and the Rotary Club Youth Basketball League. (Clarissa David)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Cervical Awareness Walk today

The Cervical Cancer Awareness Month Committee invites the community to join the last Cervical Cancer Awareness Walk of the month. It will be held today, Jan. 26, 2011, at Oleai Beach Pavilion starting at 4:30pm. Free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings will be offered to participants, as well as Cervical Cancer Awareness T-shirts to the first 100 registered walkers. Water and fruits will also be provided. (PR)

Anti-smoking bill amendment on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Sen. Luis Crisostimo, author of the anti-smoking amendment. The show starts at 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the anti-smoking bill that

will amend Public Law 16-46, the anti-smoking law, and other proposed measures that will stimulate the CNMI economy.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will also feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota, and former Tinian senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

Cancer survivorship survey

The Asian & Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network is asking all self-identified Asian-American and Pacific Islander cancer survivors to participate in a confidential survey that will be used to assess the psychosocial needs of Asian-American and Pacific Islander cancer survivors across the nation. The information gathered will be used for

research on cancer survivorship among Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities, and will help tailor and/or advocate for culturally relevant and appropriate programs and services. The survey takes approximately 20-30 minutes to fill out, and participants must be 18 years of age or older.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to the principal investigator, Dr. Giang Nguyen, at 215-615-0355, or Dr. Mai-Nhung Le at mainhung@sfsu.edu.

The survey can be found at www.aapihealth.org/study. If you are a self-identified Asian-American and/or Pacific Islander cancer survivor, take the time to fill out this important survey. (PR)

Cervical Health Forum on Friday

All cervical cancer survivors and family members are invited to a

Cervical Health Forum hosted by the Department of Public Health, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, this Friday, Jan. 28, at Pacific Islands Club, starting at 9am. The forum will include presentations by Dr. Jeanolivia Grant and other health providers and educators covering cervical cancer risk factors, risk reduction, and screening and support services. For more information or to RSVP, contact Joanne Ogo or Kim Sablan of the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. (PR)

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

The next support meeting for cancer survivors and caregivers is on Feb. 23, 2011, starting at 5:30pm. Location and presentation topic to be announced later. For more information or to RSVP, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or cca@ccamarianas.org. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy, happy birthday greetings go out to Douglas Hanson, who is celebrating his birthday today, Jan. 26, 2011! May you have many, many more birthdays to come and may all your wishes come true. God bless! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Belated happy 1st birthday to Kekoa Jose Rosario, who celebrated his special day on Jan. 25! May God bless you on this special day of yours! I love you! Greetings come from your Daddy.



Happy birthday to my loving and responsible husband, Manny Kisa! Wishing you all the best and may you have many more birthdays to come! We love you! Greetings come from your wife Maricar and kids Joseph and Joshua.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: January 27, 2011
TIME: 4:30 PM-5:30 PM
CE Rm. (Next to the Cafeteria),
Commonwealth Health Center
in Garapan, Saipan

PURPOSE:

Presentation and deliberation of the FY 2010 Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant (PHHS-BG) – Diabetes Complication Control Program's proposed goals and objectives.

Contact:

Trina Sablan
 PHHS-BG Coordinator
 Tel: 664-4032/1/0
 Fax: 664-4020

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha	
MELL SPRINGLEAF	015E	1/15 Sat	1/13 Thu	1/13 Thu	1/11 Tue	1/8 Sat	1/21 Fri	1/17 Mon	1/16 Sun	1/9 Sun	1/9 Sun	1/17 Mon	1/21 Fri	1/23 Sun	1/25 Tue	
MELL SILOSO	016E	1/22 Sat	1/20 Thu	1/20 Thu	1/18 Tue	1/15 Sat	1/28 Fri	1/24 Mon	1/23 Sun	1/16 Sun	1/16 Sun	1/24 Mon	1/28 Fri	1/30 Sun	2/1 Tue	
MELL SENTOSA	050E	1/29 Sat	1/27 Thu	1/27 Thu	1/25 Tue	1/22 Sat	2/4 Fri	1/31 Mon	1/30 Sun	1/23 Sun	1/23 Sun	1/31 Mon	2/4 Fri	2/6 Sun	2/8 Tue	
MELL SPRINGLEAF	016E	2/5 Sat	2/3 Thu	2/3 Thu	2/1 Tue	1/29 Sat	2/11 Fri	2/7 Mon	2/6 Sun	1/30 Sun	1/30 Sun	2/7 Mon	2/11 Fri	2/13 Sun	2/15 Tue	
MELL SILOSO	017E	2/12 Sat	2/10 Thu	2/10 Thu	2/8 Tue	2/5 Sat	2/18 Fri	2/14 Mon	2/13 Sun	2/6 Sun	2/6 Sun	2/14 Mon	2/18 Fri	2/20 Sun	2/22 Tue	
MELL SENTOSA	051E	2/19 Sat	2/17 Thu	2/17 Thu	2/15 Tue	2/12 Sat	2/25 Fri	2/21 Mon	2/20 Sun	2/13 Sun	2/13 Sun	2/21 Mon	2/25 Fri	2/27 Sun	3/1 Tue	
Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA	ETD	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore	
		Guam														
	MELL SPRINGLEAF	015E	1/29 Sat	1/30 Sun	1/30 Sun	SKIP	2/2 Wed	2/4 Fri	2/6 Sun	SKIP	2/11 Fri	2/12 Sat	2/17 Thu	3/8 Tue	2/20 Sun	2/16 Wed
	MELL SILOSO	016E	2/5 Sat	2/6 Sun	2/6 Sun	2/6 Sat	2/9 Wed	2/11 Fri	2/13 Sun	SKIP	2/18 Fri	2/19 Sat	2/24 Thu	3/15 Tue	2/27 Sun	2/23 Wed
	MELL SENTOSA	050E	2/12 Sat	2/13 Sun	2/13 Sun	SKIP	2/16 Wed	2/18 Fri	2/20 Sun	SKIP	2/25 Fri	2/26 Sat	3/3 Thu	3/22 Tue	3/6 Sun	3/2 Wed
	MELL SPRINGLEAF	016E	2/19 Sat	2/20 Sun	2/20 Sun	2/20 Sun	2/23 Wed	2/25 Fri	2/27 Sun	SKIP	3/4 Fri	3/5 Sat	3/10 Thu	3/29 Tue	3/13 Sun	3/9 Wed
	MELL SILOSO	017E	2/26 Sat	2/27 Sun	2/27 Sun	SKIP	3/2 Wed	3/4 Fri	3/6 Sun	SKIP	3/11 Fri	3/12 Sat	3/17 Thu	4/5 Tue	3/20 Sun	3/16 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	051E	3/5 Sat	3/6 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/9 Wed	3/11 Fri	3/13 Sun	SKIP	3/18 Fri	3/19 Sat	3/24 Thu	4/12 Tue	3/27 Sun	3/23 Wed	

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Business

FOR FULL YEAR 2010

Bank of Hawaii reports \$183.9M in net income

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Bank of Hawaii Corporation yesterday reported that its net income for the full year of 2010 was \$183.9 million or \$3.80 per diluted share, up from net income of \$144.0 million or \$3.00 per diluted share in the previous year.

It also reported a net income of \$40.6 million or \$0.84 per di-

luted share for the fourth quarter of 2010 compared with \$40.5 million or \$0.84 per diluted share for the fourth quarter of 2009.

“Bank of Hawaii Corporation finished 2010 with solid financial performance,” said the bank’s chairman, president, and CEO Peter S. Ho. “Dur-

ing the quarter we continued to see strong core deposit growth. Our loan portfolio grew slightly compared with the third quarter of 2010. Our balance sheet remained strong with high levels of liquidity, reserves, and capital. Credit quality continues to improve. The Hawaii economy is continuing to recover due, in part, to improving arrival and

spend statistics in our visitor industry. Bank of Hawaii is well positioned to meet the needs of our marketplace as conditions improve.”

The return on average assets for the fourth quarter of 2010 was 1.24 percent and the return on average equity for the quarter was 15.08 percent. The

return on average assets in 2010 was 1.45 percent, up from 1.22 percent in 2009. The return on average equity for the year was 18.16 percent, up from 16.42 percent in 2009.

Bank of Hawaii Corporation is a regional financial services company serving businesses, consumers and governments

in Hawaii, American Samoa, and the West Pacific. The company’s principal subsidiary, Bank of Hawaii, was founded in 1897 and is the largest independent financial institution in Hawaii. For more information about Bank of Hawaii Corporation, see the Company’s web site, www.boh.com. **(BoH)**

McDonald’s may raise prices as food costs rise

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—McDonald’s affordable food drew even more customers in its fourth quarter, but the burger chain said it may raise prices this year as its own food tab rises.

Worries about rising costs at the world’s largest hamburger chain gave some investors pause even as McDonald’s ended a banner year in which it outperformed its competitors. Its emphasis on low-priced items and an expanding menu, including the limited-time McRib and its McCafé coffee line, helped sales grow all year.

McDonald’s Corp., based in Oak Brook, Ill., reported that its net income rose 2 percent to \$1.24 billion, or \$1.16 per share, for the quarter. That’s up from \$1.22 billion, or \$1.11 per share, a year ago.

Revenue climbed 4 percent to \$6.21 billion.

The results met the expectations of analysts surveyed by FactSet.

However, the company said it expects food cost will rise 2 to 2.5 percent in the U.S. and



In this Dec. 20, 2010 file photo, McDonald’s signs sprout from the restaurant’s parking lot in New York.

3.5 to 4.5 percent in Europe during the year.

McDonald’s has already raised some prices in the United Kingdom to cover higher costs. The company said as prices for beef and other ingredients and other cost pressures in the U.S. become more pronounced throughout the year, it will likely increase prices to offset some, but not all, of its higher costs.

However, McDonald’s man-

agement said it would raise prices selectively to avoid compromising the popularity it has gained with diners looking for low-priced meals during the down economy.

The company said the commodity cost increases still keep it below its 2009 levels, when it coped with increased prices on a number of ingredients. But it still expects some pressure on profit margins.

In its fourth quarter, sales

at U.S. stores open at least 13 months increased 4.4 percent as the company rolled out its Caramel Mocha and customers participated in its perennially popular Monopoly promotion. Worldwide, the figure rose 5 percent on strength in Asia.

The increases were smaller than in the third quarter, when the figure rose 5.3 percent in the U.S. and 6 percent worldwide.

This figure is a key indicator of a restaurant operator’s health because it measures results at existing locations instead of newly opened ones.

McDonald’s said bad weather in December hurt U.S. sales. It expects global sales at stores open at least 13 months to rise 4 percent to 5 percent in January.

Investors had a mixed take on the quarter with the commodity news as well as strong sales that were hampered in December by the bad economy.

Shares of McDonald’s dipped in the morning but rose 12 cents to \$75.13 by midday trading. They hit an all-time high of \$80.94 in early December.

Resurgent GM nipping at Toyota’s heels in sales race

FLINT, Mich. (AP)—General Motors has a shot at being No. 1 again.

The resurgent automaker reported Monday that its worldwide sales last year came within 30,000 of beating Japanese rival Toyota, which took a big hit because of safety recalls.

GM is hiring, producing more and basking in a better reputation for quality. It expects to sell even more cars and trucks this year, putting it within reach of the title of biggest in the world—an honor it held for 76 years before losing it in 2008.

Regaining the global lead means a lot to workers on the assembly line in Flint, a town devastated by years of auto industry job losses. Just two years ago, they didn’t know if their factory or even their company would survive.

Dana Rouse, a union official at the pickup truck factory here, called overtaking Toyota the Heisman Trophy of the auto business.

“We’re going to take Toyota on, and the people in Flint are going to be a part of that,”

he said. “This is the birthplace of General Motors. We kind of take it a little more seriously than maybe some other towns.”

GM executives say they are focused on keeping customers happy, not on the title. They remember the company’s disastrous recent history, when it sold cars at a loss just to hold on to market share.

“Satisfying and retaining our customers and delivering world-class products is pretty much the fundamental business that we’re in,” GM North America President Mark Reuss said Monday at the factory. “The rest of it may come, may not.”

Now GM is outselling Toyota in fast-growing China, and its U.S. business is bouncing back. To overtake Toyota, it needs a sales increase of half a percentage point, about the number of Chevy Silverado pickup trucks it sells per month in the U.S.

Toyota is still wounded from recalls of more than 10 million vehicles, mainly to fix gas pedals and floor mats that could make cars speed out of control.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Big Boyz Marine Sports

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing for this Conditional Use application. Masanari Yasuda of Big Boyz Marine Sports is requesting to establish a commercial garage. This business would provide general vehicle repair and custom painting services to the general public. This activity would occur on Lot 409-1-R-1 in the As Terlaje area along Monsignor Guerrero Road. The site is now zoned as “Mixed Commercial”.

Date: February 3rd, 2011
Time: 6:00pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, February 2nd, 2011. Written comments may be submitted via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Montessori Day Care Center

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing for this Conditional Use application. Terry Ramos of New Pacific Enterprises Inc. is requesting to establish a Day Care Center on Lot 002 H 02-1. This is at the intersection of Lulai Way and Pachinko Avenue in the village of Susupe. The site is now zoned as “Village Residential”.

Date: February 3rd, 2011
Time: 6:00pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, February 2nd, 2011. Written comments may be submitted via email to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bernanke bond plan faces more skeptics within Fed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Few expect any major shifts when the Federal Reserve’s policymaking panel meets this week, even though two of its new voting members have been skeptics of the Fed’s \$600 billion Treasury bond purchase plan. That could all change by spring, when the Fed must decide whether to extend its bond purchases. Any push to renew the program beyond its scheduled June 30 end date would likely face stiffer resistance within the Fed. The Treasury bond purchases are intended to aid the economy by lowering interest rates, encouraging spending and raising stock prices. But some, like the two new Fed voting members, warn that the bond purchases could eventually ignite inflation by keeping rates too low for too long.

Lawsuit to Taco Bell: Where’s the beef?

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—An Alabama law firm claims in a lawsuit that Taco Bell is using false advertising when it refers to using “seasoned ground beef” or “seasoned beef” in its products. The meat mixture sold by Taco Bell restaurants contains binders and extenders and does not meet the minimum requirements set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to be labeled as “beef,” according to the legal complaint. The class-action lawsuit was filed Friday in federal court in the Central District of California by the Montgomery law firm Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles. Attorney Dee Miles said attorneys had Taco Bell’s “meat mixture” tested and found it contained less than 35 percent beef.

Nation

Suspect pleads not guilty in deadly Ariz. shooting

PHOENIX (AP)—The suspect in the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords smiled and nodded but didn't speak as he appeared in court Monday and his lawyer provided the 22-year-old's first response to the charges: a plea of not guilty. In the two weeks since the deadly attack outside



Loughner

a Tucson grocery store, Jared Loughner's hair—shaved in the

mug shot that's become an enduring image of the tragedy—has grown out slightly. The 22-year-old Tucson resident wore an orange prison jumpsuit and glasses, and his wrists were cuffed to a chain around his waist as eight U.S. Marshalls kept watch in the packed Phoenix courtroom and

gallery above.

Loughner faces federal

charges of trying to assassinate Giffords and murder two of her aides. He will later face state charges in the attack that killed six people, including U.S. District Judge John Roll and a 9-year-old girl.

Investigators have said Loughner was mentally disturbed and acting increasingly erratic in the weeks leading up to the attack on Jan. 8. If Loughner's attorney uses mental competency questions as a defense and is successful, Loughner

could be sent to a mental health facility instead of being sentenced to prison or death.

But his attorney, Judy Clarke, said she wasn't raising issues of competency "at

this time" after U.S. District Judge Larry Burns of San Diego asked whether there was any question about her client's ability to understand the case against him. Giffords was shot in the forehead and twelve others were injured in the shooting. The Democratic congress-

woman spent two weeks in a Tucson hospital before she was flown to Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center Hospital on Friday. Shortly after her arrival, doctors said she had been given a tube to drain a buildup of brain fluid that has kept her in intensive care.

State of the Union: It's the economy, again

WASHINGTON (AP)—Standing before a nation clamoring for jobs, President Barack Obama will call for targeted spending to boost the economy but also for budget cutting in Tuesday night's State of the Union address, his first in a new era of divided political power.

To a television audience in the tens of millions, Obama will home in on jobs, the issue of most importance to the

public and to his hopes for a second term. Though war and other concerns bid for attention, the president has chosen to lean heavily on the economy, with far less emphasis on Afghanistan and Iraq, terrorism and foreign affairs.

Specifically, Obama will focus on improving the education, innovation and infrastructure of the United States as the way to provide a sounder economic

base. He will pair that with calls to reduce the government's debt—now topping a staggering \$14 trillion—and reforming government. Those five areas will frame the speech, with sprinklings of fresh proposals.

Yet no matter how ambitious Obama's rhetorical reach, his speech at the halfway point of his term will be viewed in the context of his new political reality.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ill. court throws Emanuel off Chicago ballot

CHICAGO (AP)—Just days ago, Rahm Emanuel seemed to be steamrolling the entire field of candidates for Chicago mayor. He had millions in the bank, a huge lead in the polls and abundant opportunities to show off his influence, including meeting with the visiting Chinese president. But on Monday, the former White House chief of staff was waging a desperate bid to keep his campaign alive after an Illinois appeals court kicked him off the ballot for not meeting a residency requirement. The surprise decision threw the race into disarray with less than a

month to go. Emanuel's lawyers quickly sought help from the Illinois Supreme Court, asking the justices to stay the appellate ruling and to hear an appeal as soon as possible. But time was running short, since the Chicago Board of Elections planned to begin printing ballots without Emanuel's name within days.

Grim month for police, 2 more Fla. officers slain

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—When two wounded law officers were rushed from the scene of a deadly shooting Monday morning on Florida's Gulf Coast, someone handed St. Petersburg Police Chief Chuck

Harmon a ring, two bracelets and a badge. They belonged to Sgt. Thomas Baitinger and Officer Jeffrey Yaslowitz, who died from the wounds they sustained helping to serve a warrant on a man with a long criminal history. "I'm having a hard time letting go of them," said Harmon, whose hands shook as he held the dead officers' mementos. These were the latest police killings in a month that already proved fatal for 14 law officers across the nation. In just a 24-hour period between Sunday and Monday, 11 officers were shot in five states, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.



CNMI Water Task Force ITB 11-GOV-045



Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the procurement of the supply and delivery of various materials for use in the optimization of the water wellheads on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders must bid on all items. A contract will be awarded to one supplier for all bid items

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **January 26, 2011**.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **February 9, 2011**.

Sealed Bids must be marked "**Supply of Wellhead Materials**", **ITB11-GOV-045**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower base, Saipan no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, February 24, 2011**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days of receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, February 24, 2011** and must be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the Official government postal service no later than **February 24, 2011** and must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than **March 7, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **2:00 p.m., local time, March 8, 2011**. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, the bids will be opened at **2:30 p.m., local time, February 24, 2011**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and deliver of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/S/ **Benigno R. Fitial**
Governor and Contracting Officer

/S/ **Herman S. Sablan**
Director, Procurement and Supply



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-11-019

WATER DIVISION ANNUAL SUPPLY OF PUMPS & MOTORS, ASSEMBLIES & PARTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply & Delivery of Water Division Annual Supply of Pumps & Motors, Assemblies and Parts for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-11-019, Water Division Annual Supply of Pumps & Motors, Assemblies & Parts**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 17, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bid award per commodity group will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to all specification and requirements.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **February 11, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Captain, Robert Lorenz, Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email robert_lorenz@cucgov.net & Mr. Robert Malate, Water Division Engineer via email rmalate@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Asia

Skinny pigs, poison pork: China battles farm drugs

BEIJING (AP)—It has shown up frequently in pork but also in snake dishes in south China and beef from the far western Xinjiang region, sending diners to the hospital with stomach aches and heart palpitations.

Clenbuterol, known in China simply as “lean meat powder,” is a dangerous drug that’s banned in China yet stubbornly continues to pop up in the food supply, laced into animal feed by farmers impatient to get their meat to market and turn a profit.

The drug accelerates fat burning and muscle growth, making it an attractive feed additive, sports performance enhancer and slimming drug, but overdoses can cause illness and, in rare cases, death. Tour de France champion Alberto Contador is among the athletes, who have tested positive for the drug, though he disputes the results, claiming he unknowingly ingested the drug by eating tainted filet mignon.

How much of China’s meat

supply is tainted with clenbuterol is not clear. The government won’t say how many cases of contaminated meat or related illness occur every year. But industry watchers say that, in the countryside at least, use of the drug is rampant.

In a country with an appetite-killing roster of food safety issues—from deadly infant formula to honey laced with dangerous antimicrobials and eggs dyed with cancer-causing pigments—the problem of clenbuterol-tainted pork is widely considered to be one of China’s biggest food threats.

“It’s really a big problem in China,” said Pan Chenjun, a senior industry analyst with Rabobank in Beijing who focuses on the business of food in China. “It’s not reported frequently so people sometimes think it’s not a big issue but actually it’s quite widespread.”

Pan said improved food inspection in big cities like Bei-

jing and Shanghai have made mass poisonings in urban areas unusual, and therefore newsworthy, but the problem is rampant in smaller cities and rural areas.

“I think a lot of people living in counties or towns may have a lot of exposure (to clenbuterol) if they eat street food,” Pan said.

Adding clenbuterol to feed can reduce a pig’s body fat to a very thin layer and makes butchered skin pinker, giving the appearance of fresher meat for a longer time.

The appealing look is one reason Chinese meat suppliers sometimes demand clenbuterol-treated pork from pig farmers, said Wen Peng, editor of the Chinese-language version of The Pig Site, an online news aggregator for the global pork industry.

“When it comes to big large farms, there isn’t much of a problem because they can’t afford to be caught but there are a lot of small farms and they have a big market,” Wen said.

More Australians flee as floods move across SE

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—An inland sea of muddy floodwaters swamping southeastern Australia pushed its way toward rural communities Tuesday, threatening homes and businesses as the death toll from the disaster climbed.

Emergency services were focusing their efforts on Swan Hill, a town 210 miles (340 kilometers) northwest of the Victorian state capital of Melbourne, where the Loddon and Murray rivers meet. Floodwaters are expected to peak there next week when the sea arrives, the State Emergency Service said.

Australia’s flood crisis began

with record rains in November that left huge parts of the northeast state of Queensland under water. On Monday, Queensland police said they had found the remains of two more flood victims west of the state capital, Brisbane. Since November, the floodwaters in Queensland have killed 35 people, police said.

The Queensland floods damaged or destroyed 30,000 homes and businesses and caused at least \$3 billion in damage to crops and lost coal exports. Brisbane, the country’s third-largest city, was swamped for days.

The flood disaster is now moving across southeast Vic-

toria, where driving rains have forced swollen rivers over their banks. The State Emergency Service said 76 towns in Victoria have been affected by flooding, with 1,770 properties suffering some water damage.

Volunteers have spent the past week piling tens of thousands of sandbags around Swan Hill, a town of 10,000 people that lies in the water’s path.

But on Tuesday, State Emergency Service operations director Tim Wiebusch said smaller communities surrounding the town were the areas of most concern, with 250 properties at risk of inundation.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China dismisses stealth technology report

BEIJING (AP)—An official Chinese newspaper is dismissing a report that China applied technology taken from a downed U.S. airplane to its own stealth fighter program. Earlier this month, China staged the first test flight of its J-20 prototype stealth fighter, which could one day challenge American air superiority. The Defense Ministry has commented little on the test flight other than to assert that China continued to arm for defensive purposes only. But on Tuesday, the Global Times newspaper quoted an unidentified Defense Ministry official as dismissing an Associated Press report citing Balkan military officials and other experts saying China likely gleaned some of its technological know-how from an American F-117 Nighthawk shot down over Serbia in 1999.

Manila mayor snubs HK probe into hostage deaths

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The mayor of Manila and his deputy say they will decline an invitation by Hong Kong authorities to question them about last year’s botched hostage rescue in the Philippine capital in which eight tourists died.

The two officials are among 116 witnesses invited to appear before an inquest in February, but the office of the Philippine president said Monday their participation is voluntary. A dismissed policeman took a busload of Hong Kong tourists hostage on Aug. 23 and allegedly killed eight before he was shot dead by police snipers. A Philippine inquiry has absolved top ranking police and civilian authorities from any criminal liability.

Japan’s ‘convict’ monkey stages daring cage break

TOKYO (AP)—A marauding monkey that terrorized resort towns in central Japan last year by biting nearly 120 people has escaped captivity. Officials in Mishima City said the monkey slipped out of the government-run nature park it had been kept at since its capture last October when a keeper was cleaning its cage. The city published an emergency notice urging residents to lock their doors, though no new attacks have been reported. The fugitive monkey, known as “Lucky,” is a type of macaque that is one of the most common wild mammals in Japan. They are considered a nuisance in rural areas, where they damage crops and steal food.

World

Investigators work near the lifeless body of a man killed in an explosion at Domodedovo airport in Moscow, Monday, Jan. 24, 2011.

AP

Bombing at Moscow airport called terrorist attack

MOSCOW (AP)—Terrorists struck again in the heart of Russia, with a suicide bomber blowing himself up Monday in Moscow’s busiest airport and turning its international arrivals terminal into a smoky, blood-spattered hall of dismembered bodies, screaming survivors and abandoned suitcases. At least 35 people were killed, including two British travelers.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast at Domodedovo Airport that also wounded 180 people, although Islamic militants in the southern Russian region of Chechnya have been blamed for previous attacks in Moscow, including a double suicide bombing on the capital’s subway system in March 2010 that resulted in 40 deaths.

The Interfax news agency said the head of the suspected bomber had been found.

President Dmitry Medvedev called it a terrorist attack and immediately tightened security at Moscow’s two other commercial airports and other



key transportation facilities.

It was the second time in seven years that Domodedovo was involved in a terrorist attack: In 2004, two female suicide bombers penetrated the lax security there, illegally bought tickets from airport personnel and boarded planes that exploded in flight and killed 90 people.

Medvedev canceled plans to travel Tuesday to the World Economic Forum in Davos,

Switzerland, where he aimed to promote Russia as a profitable investment haven to world business leaders.

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin ordered the health minister to send her deputies to hospitals to make sure the injured were getting the medical care they needed.

Russians still look to the tough-talking Putin as the leader they trust to guarantee their security, and Monday’s attack was likely to strengthen the position of the security forces that form part of his base.

Large-scale battles in Chechnya ended years ago, following two devastating wars that Russia waged with the republic’s separatists, but Islamic militants have continued to carry out suicide bombings and other attacks. Most have been in Chechnya and other predominantly Muslim provinces in the southern Caucasus region, but some have targeted Moscow, including its subways, trains and even a theater.

WORLD BRIEFS

7 killed at park in besieged Mexican border city

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—Gunmen spraying automatic weapons fire killed seven people at a park that had been built as an anti-violence measure in the besieged Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez, authorities said Monday. The assailants arrived during a soccer game the park in the Francisco I. Madero neighborhood and opened fire Sunday afternoon, said Carlos Gonzalez, a spokesman for the Chihuahua state prosecutors’ office. Two of the people killed had been playing soccer. The body of one young man in his blue-and-red soccer uniform lay beneath a huge sign reading “Live Better”—the federal government’s motto—and “Todo Somos Juarez,” or “We’re All Juarez”—the name of a program to reduce violence and improve life for Ciudad Juarez.

UN chief criticized as soft on human rights

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Human Rights Watch singled out U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for especially harsh criticism Monday as it took world leaders to task for what it called their failure to be tougher on rights offenders. Ban’s office rejected the criticism, insisting

that the U.N. chief employs both quiet diplomacy and public condemnation with abusive governments after determining which method will prove most effective in each case. Human Rights Watch’s executive director Kenneth Roth also lambasted the European Union; the E.U.’s first high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, Catherine Ashton; President Obama, British Prime Minister David Cameron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Argentina: Woman plunges from 23rd floor, survives

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Witnesses say they saw a woman throw herself from the 23rd story of a Buenos Aires hotel Monday and survive. The woman landed in a sitting position on the roof of a taxi whose driver got out just before the impact deeply dented his roof and shattered the windshield. The woman, a 30-year-old Argentine, was rushed to the nearby Hospital Argerich, where she was being operated on for injuries including internal bleeding and broken hips and ribs, Alberto Crescenti, director of Argentina’s Emergency Medical System, told the government news agency Telam. He estimated that she fell nearly 100 meters (330 feet).

Focus

Rise in abortions in China, young women are targeted

By ALEXA OLESEN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

XI'AN, China (AP)—The leaf-strewn median on Eternal Peace Road hides a grim secret: Numerous tiny fetuses lie in unmarked graves dug by women from the abortion clinic across the street.



This photo taken Monday, Dec. 13, 2010 shows an image of a three-month-old fetus during a sonogram scan for "Nancy" Yin at a clinic run by Marie Stopes International in Xi'an in central China's Shaanxi province.

The staff at the small clinic in the heart of this ancient city don't bury most of the fetuses—only those that have reached three or four months, when they clearly resemble miniature babies.

"This big," says anesthesiologist Liu Jianmin, using her thumb and index finger to measure out the length of a lipstick tube. The burials are a gesture of respect for lives cut short, she adds, and the patients aren't told.

It is a secret hiding in plain sight, much like the rising rate of abortions among young, unmarried women in China.

While comprehensive data are hard to come by, official figures show abortions are increasing, and Chinese media and experts say many, if not most, of the abortion-seekers are young, single women. That's a change from the past, when abortion was used mainly to enforce the government's one child per couple limit. Today, students are clearly a client base: The Beijing Modern Women's Hospital offers a government-subsidized "Safe & Easy A+" discount abortion package at 880 yuan (\$130). Others advertise in college handbooks.

According to a government tally, 9.2 million abortions were performed in 2008, up from 7.6 million in 2007. But the count only includes hospitals, and state media report the total could be as high as 13 million. If accurate, that would give China among the highest abortion rates in the world.

Many blame the trend on newly liberal attitudes toward premarital sex, and lagging sex education. Bureaucratic red tape and social stigma also deter single women from having a child on their own, and laws bar women from marriage until they are 20, making teen pregnancy virtually unheard of. These factors and a lack of stigma surrounding abortion, or "artificial miscarriage," as it's known here, have helped make it a relatively cheap, widely available option for birth control.

"The moral outrage over having a child before marriage in our society is much stronger than the shame associated with abortion," said Zhou Anqin, the manager at the clinic in Xi'an, which performs about 60 abortions each month, mostly on students aged 24 or younger.

The two-story facility, which opened in 2007, is one of five operated in China by Marie Stopes International, a London-based not-for-profit group that runs hundreds of clinics globally promoting safe abortions, HIV testing and other services. The fetuses that aren't buried are discarded as medical waste, as they are in the United States and other countries.

In a ground floor examination room, a nurse rubs the sonogram wand over 20-year-old Nancy Yin's belly as Yin stares at the wall, looking away from the image on the machine: a nearly three-month-old fetus with arms, legs, and a quick fluttering heartbeat.

Yin asks to be identified as "Nancy," an English name she likes, instead of her official Chinese name, because her family is unaware of the pregnancy.

A student in Xi'an, she says she started having sex with her boyfriend in March. The couple never used contraceptives, Yin says, because she "didn't

feel comfortable with it." Her parents never talked to her about birth control, nor was it discussed in school.

As a nurse checks her blood for signs of infection, Yin huddles inside her winter coat, letting her hair fall forward to cover most of her face. She seems embarrassed to be in the

The survey found 22 percent had had sex before; of those, more than 50 percent used no contraception during their first sexual encounter. A 2009 survey of American high schoolers by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control found 46 percent of students had had sex and 85 percent

ened families to the point that babies weren't traditionally named until 100 days after birth, she noted.

"Luckily, in Chinese culture people generally feel that before the actual birth, you don't yet have an actual person, so we have cases of induced abortion at seven and eight months

'They don't want me to mention contraception. They are afraid I will corrupt the students.'

clinic but firm in her decision.

"I considered having the baby," she says. "But it's not possible. I am in school and I've got to graduate."

China's family planning network is enormous and efficient, a virtual population control army that promotes contraception and meticulously logs births, abortions and sterilizations—but it focuses mainly on married couples.

Young people like Yin are falling through the cracks. A U.N.-funded survey of 22,288 Chinese aged 15-24 by the Peking University Population Research Institute in 2009 found that two-thirds were accepting of premarital sex but that most "had very limited levels of sexual reproductive health knowledge."

used contraceptives during their most recent sexual activity.

Later, Yin leaves with a bag of pills and an abortion appointment three days later. Zhou, the manager, explains that the pills will kill the fetus and soften Yin's cervix.

"It's like preparing the ground before you pull out a sapling," she says. "If you pour water on the ground first, it will loosen the soil and make it much easier."

Chinese can be brutally frank when it comes to abortion. Many feel a fetus isn't a person until after it's born—an attitude Beijing sociologist Li Yinhe associates with the country's once-high infant mortality rate. Frequent miscarriages and infant death hard-

along," Li said. "I think this is to China's advantage from a population control point of view ... China has absolutely no need for the so-called 'right to life' argument, no need to introduce ideas about abortion as murder and so on."

China's few anti-abortion campaigners are usually Buddhists or Christians. But their activities are low-key because the government keeps a tight rein on grassroots organizations and religious groups.

China legalized abortion in the 1950's, but it didn't become common until the government began enforcing a one-child limit to stem population growth.

From fewer than 5 million abortions a year prior to 1979, the num-

bers jumped to 8.7 million in 1981, a year after the one-child policy was launched. It peaked in 1983 at 14.4 million before coming down as China relaxed the policy to allow rural couples a second child if their first was a girl.

An aggressive, and often coercive, prevention campaign also reduced abortions. In 1983 alone, China sterilized 21 million people and fitted 17.8 million women with intrauterine devices. The next year abortions declined sharply to 8.9 million.

Abortion remains widely available, but what's different is the clientele.

"It used to be that Chinese women only had an abortion if the fetus had birth defects or if they got pregnant after having their first child," says Liu, the anesthesiologist.

"Society is different now, it's much more open, too open actually, and puberty is starting much younger but schools and parents aren't discussing these things with the kids."

Puberty tends to start earlier as countries develop and children's diets improve; in China, the starting age has fallen from about 14.5 in the 1970's to 12.5 years old. Meanwhile, the average marriage age also has edged up, from 20 in the 1970's to 22 now, extending the time that many youths can be sexually active but unmarried.

Li Shuzhuo, a demographer at the Institute for Population and Development Studies in Xi'an, says it's clear that there's been a big shift from post-marriage to pre-marriage abortions over the past ten years, but academics don't have access to data that could help them quantify the change.

Clinics and hospitals are stepping in to meet the demand. Online ads and cheery brochures in pastel colors advertise "painless artificial miscarriage," private recovery lounges and post-surgery massage meant to help shrink the swollen uterus back to normal size.

"These kids today have it so easy, they get a pinch and fall asleep, no suffering," says Liu, the anesthesiologist, who herself underwent an abortion without pain medicine in 1982, standard practice at the time. "If they felt it, they wouldn't get pregnant again."

In fact, Marie Stopes frequently sees repeat customers.

Zhang Jie, a 22-year-old, warms herself by a space heater in the recovery room after her second abortion in as many years. A petite woman with blue-tinted contacts, Zhang works as a salesgirl and hopes one day to open her own fashion shop.

She says she wants a baby when she's older and has some savings, but not now. Unfortunately, she says, the contraceptive pills she got over the counter at the drugstore failed again.

It's not clear why they didn't work, though clinic staff say some women don't realize they must be taken every day without fail.

The manager, Zhou, wants to tell young people how to use pills and condoms properly when she lectures at high schools and colleges, but administrators often force her to stick to dating etiquette and menstruation.

"They don't want me to mention contraception," she says. "They are afraid I will corrupt the students."

Campus Life

By SARAH LUNDY
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

ORLANDO, Fla.—Second-year medical student Lynn McGrath knows the iPod touch he carries will help him become a better doctor.

McGrath, 25, can quickly research a patient's symptoms on the device and learn how to treat them in minutes.

"The first year as medical students, it helps us figure out what's going on, but as you become more familiar, it's more of a confirmation," he said.

Starting this semester, the University of Central Florida's College of Medicine, which in its second year, is giving every medical student an iPod touch to help in their training.

The Central Florida college has joined other medical schools across the country that provide mobile devices to medical students. Florida State University

dents are the ones who brought forth the idea," said Dr. Catherine Lucey, the Ohio college's interim dean. "It can be used to really help explain things to students."

Nadine Dexter, who is the health sciences library director, said the iPods help students to learn on their own and to know how to find the most recent information.

"We want to teach them that good up-to-date knowledge is what all good physicians need to make good point-of-care decisions," she said. "We don't want them to make a decision based on a 10-year-old text sitting on a shelf."

Some doctors on the UCF staff have also embraced the iPod.

"It used to be that you would read every journal that came to your mailbox," said Dr. Bethany Ballinger, director of clinical informatics and an emergency room doctor. "Now, there is no way. . . . You are not looking at



Lynn McGrath, 25, left, and Bryant Lambe, 22, University of Central Florida medical students, use their iPod Touch, Oct. 11, 2010, in Orlando, Florida.

RED HUBER/ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

Medical students get iPods to bolster training

also gives iPod touches to medical students, and Stanford University in California is distributing much-larger Apple iPads to its future doctors.

The UCF iPod, which costs around \$600 with medical applications, gives students instant access to look up diseases, medications and symptoms. It also allows them to listen to lectures and view diagrams.

The Ohio State University College of Medicine was the first to hand out iPod touches to each student, in 2007.

"Like many things, the stu-



Lynn McGrath, 25, UCF medical student, uses a medical app he downloaded to his iPod Touch, October 11, 2010. The app teaches heart sounds.

RED HUBER/ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

how much you can cram into your memory. You are looking selectively at what you need to learn to stay up to date and to manage this patient."

Before making its decision to distribute the iPods, UCF surveyed more than 150 medical schools in United States and Canada, Dexter said. Of those, two dozen schools incorporate a hand-held device into the curriculum and most either used or suggested iPods.

To ensure that UCF students use them correctly, the school incorporates the devices and soft-

ware into its courses. First-year students learn the basics about the various software programs. As they progress, they use their iPods to research more complicated cases, Ballinger said.

For example, as part of the program, students every few weeks visit patients with Ballinger at Florida Hospital East. If a patient complains of chest pain, Ballinger can ask the students why specific drugs are being prescribed or could there be another diagnosis.

"They can go on (the iPod) and look up information and find the answers here," Ballinger said. "If they look it up themselves and work the answer out themselves they are much more likely to retain this as opposed to blah, blah, blah, learn these three causes of chest pains."

For second-year student Bryant Lambe, 22, the iPod touch helped him when he volunteered in Haiti where he

served as a pharmacist for a neo-natal and pediatric intensive care unit. He would mix powder-form medication so it could be injected as liquid.

"They had giant books that listed how to reconstitute the drugs," he said. "When I got an order to reconstitute a certain drug I hadn't done before, I just typed in the name and I could pull up all the facts, all the interactions and what other drugs I could use to substitute if I didn't have that drug."

After graduation, the students get to keep the iPod touches, which is covered by the technology fee they pay the school.

College officials have heard some rumblings from doctors who worry that students will become too reliant on the device for information. But Ballinger said that won't happen.

"It doesn't let students off the hook," she said. "You can't take it into an exam."

Golden Harvest MathCourt winners



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest International School math coaches Imelda C. Bautista and Aida M. Lim pose with the school's students who participated in the MathCourt Competition for K-5 Divisions held at Koblerville Elementary School on Jan. 22, 2011.

Golden Harvest International School students made a good start this year with impressive performances at the MathCourt Competition for K-5 Divisions held at Koblerville Elementary School on Jan. 22,

2011. The school had nine participants from Kindergarten 5 to 3rd Grade and seven students won 1st to 4th place in three different categories. Congratulations to all the winners and keep up the good work.

KINDER - 5

Allia Pillarina (2nd Place)
Numbers
Alg/DSP (2nd Place)
Geo/Mea. (1st Place)

FIRST GRADE

Sukey Wu (3rd Place)
Numbers
Geo/Mea (3rd Place)

Raven Francisco

Alg/DSP (2nd Place)
Geo/Mea (1st Place)

2ND GRADE

John Isaac San Nicolas (2nd place)
Numbers
Alg/ DSP (2nd Place)

Faith Bocago

Mea./ Geo. (2nd Place)

Vince Philip Salvador

Alg/ DSP (2nd Place)

3RD GRADE

Kennedy Vila (2nd Place)
Numbers
Alg/ DSP (4th Place)
Mea./Geo. (3rd Place)

Coaches: Imelda C. Bautista and Aida M. Lim

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Kagman High cleanup postponed

To parents and guardians of Kagman High School students: Please be informed that the campus cleanup scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Jan. 28 and 29, 2011, has been postponed to Saturday, Feb. 5, 8:30am to 12pm. Please bring your own hand gloves, kam'ma or sickle, machete, rake, lawnmower and pruner. If you have any questions, write to AniciaQT@gmail.com. (PR)

Earn your master's degree in Education

The Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute, a program under the Division of Community Programs and Services, is inviting individuals interested in advancing their education to consider the master's degree in Education program from Framingham State College.

The next cohort is slated to begin in Fall 2011. Interested individuals can pick up applications beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2011, at the CDI Offices in Building P at the NMC As Terlaje campus.

For more information, visit the CDI Offices for brochures and to have your questions answered by the CDI staff. Interested individuals may also contact Extended Degrees and University Partnership Programs program manager Floyd Masga at 234-5498 ext. 1010/1019/1030/1005 or email floyd-dm@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Life & Style

Oprah Winfrey finds sister she didn't know she had

CHICAGO (AP)—Oprah Winfrey has discovered she has a half-sister—a Milwaukee woman who was given up for adoption by Winfrey's mother nearly 50 years ago, when the talk show host was eight years old.

An emotional Winfrey introduced her newly found sibling to viewers Monday and explained the woman's persistent quest to find her birth mother.

"This, my friends, is the miracle of all miracles," Winfrey said before bringing out the 48-year-old woman, who throughout the program was identified only as Patricia, with no mention of her occupation or any other details.

After years of searching for blood relatives, the woman met Winfrey on Thanksgiving Day of last year.

When Patricia was born in Milwaukee in 1963, the young Winfrey was living with her father and did not even know her mother was pregnant, she said.

Patricia, who Winfrey said bounced from foster home to foster home until she was adopted at age 7, had given up after previous searches for her mother. But she decided to resume looking several years ago at the insistence of her grown children.

The effort seemed to hit a dead



This photo taken Jan. 19, 2011 and provided by Harpo Productions Inc., shows talk-show host Oprah Winfrey greeting her half-sister Patricia on an episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" taped at Harpo Studios in Chicago.

end when a woman from the Wisconsin adoption agency called to respond to her inquiries.

"She was telling me that my birth mother had called her back, and she had made the decision at that particular time that she did not want to see me," Patricia said.

Coincidentally, on the local news that day was a story about Winfrey's mother, Vernita Lee, who revealed details about two of her children who had since died. Those details, Patricia said, matched information she had seen in papers about her own adoption.

Winfrey's mother also said that

one of the deceased children had been named Patricia.

"The hairs on the back of my neck stood up," Patricia said. "Because I knew one of my siblings and I shared the same name."

Later, she found more matching details, including the fact that Winfrey was born in 1954, the same year as the woman Patricia knew was her surviving sibling.

Patricia found the daughter of Winfrey's dead sister in Milwaukee, and they took a DNA test that confirmed their relationship.

Lee, who recently suffered a minor stroke, said she never told Winfrey about her half-sister,

"because I thought it was a terrible thing for me to do, that I had done, gave up my daughter when she was born."

Winfrey said documents from the girl's birth reveal that Lee gave up the baby for adoption because she did not think she could get off welfare if she kept the child.

"I made the decision to give her up because I wasn't able to take care of her," Lee said during a recorded interview that aired Monday. "So when I left the hospital, I told the nurse I wasn't going to keep the baby."

Winfrey said she was particularly stunned by the news because of the way it came out.

She said Patricia had known since 2007 that the two were related, but never attempted to profit off her discovery or contact the press, even as she tried unsuccessfully to contact Winfrey, her mother or others in Winfrey's family.

"She never once thought to sell the story," Winfrey said, recalling how she felt betrayed by others who have sought to take advantage of their relationship with one of the largest figures in the entertainment world and one of the wealthiest women in the United States.

Winfrey, for example, recalled how her other sister revealed to the press years ago that Winfrey

had had a baby when she was a teenager. The baby, Winfrey has said, died shortly after birth. And she talked about putting her sister in rehab twice for drug addiction, but that her sister ultimately died.

Patricia said she didn't consider revealing that she and Winfrey were half-sisters to anyone but Winfrey, explaining that she did not want to hurt Winfrey.

"Family business should be handled by family," Patricia said. "It couldn't be handled by anyone else. That's not fair. It wouldn't be fair to you."

Winfrey said she was heartened by learning that she had a half-sister, saying it "feels like closure" for the sister who died.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

JESUS LIZAMA KISA

Born to life on February 20, 1946 and was called to his eternal rest on January 23, 2011

Survived By:

Wife: Emelita Mauricio Kisa
Daughter: Jessica M. Kisa (Jayce)
Sister: Terry Lizama Kisa (Raymond & Verlyn [Trevor Jude & Jared Teagan], Vincent & Britney [Vinysha Keana, Victoria Kiara and Vinson Blas], Vanessa & Shawn [Shalei Terrie])
Reared Sister: Dolores & Akiyoshi Yamagishi (Bob, Evan, Calvin & Rima)

Predeceased By:

Parents: †Magdalena Mendiola Lizama Kisa "BATITANG"
 †Antonio Camacho Kisa
Father-In-Law: †Santos Loyola Mauricio
Mother-In-Law: †Florentina Gonzaga Sta Ana

He will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, nieces, nephews, family & friends.

Daily mass is being held at 6:00am at Mount Carmel Cathedral Church.

On February 1, 2011, his remains will be escorted from CHC to Mount Carmel Cathedral Church at 7:30am for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am, followed by interment Services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your prayers and thoughts are greatly appreciated.

THE FAMILY

Death & Funeral Announcement

NADINE JANELLE "LEISIFISCHIMAL" TAITANO LIZAMA

Born to life on September 08, 1982 and was called to her eternal rest on January 21, 2011

Daily Mass is being offered at St. Jude Church in Koblerville at 6:00 pm and Holy Rosary is being said nightly at the residence of Jose A. & Rosa T. Lizama in Koblerville at 7:00 pm.

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:

Maternal Grandmother: †Maria M. Taitano
Maternal Grandfather: Dionicio Malus
Uncles: Enock T. Kapileo, Martin T. Ada, Gerald Kapileo
Aunt: Ana T. Ada
Godmother: Joanne T. Taro
Brothers & Sisters In-Law: Lalani DLS. Lizama, Raymon D. Delos Santos, Paul Celis, Madaline Delos Santos

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Parents: Jose A. Jr./Rosa T. Lizama
Paternal Grandparents: Jose SN./Maria A. Lizama
Maternal Grandparents: Simon I./Christine Kapileo
Common Law Husband: Jerome C. Delos Santos
Children: Rikko Jedd, Rocco Je
Father/Mother-In-Law: Joaquin P./Maria C. Delos Santos
Brothers/Sisters: Alfreda T. Odoshi (Terrence Jamahl, Athan Simeon, Jodine Rose, Micheal Joel)
 Nadia L./Elias Q. Saralu (Nokki Jim, Raymond Alexander, Preston Joel, Rosie Jean, Abraham Jay)
 Darcey Lizama/Myra Williams (Jose Valerio, Darcel Elise)
 Dane Lizama/Sharon Sablan (Dion Shane, Daesha Juella, Dean Mario, Dilan Peter)
Godparents: Congressman Ramon A. Tebuteb (Messalina) Melva B. Concepcion (Vicente)

She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces & nephews.

On Friday, January 28, 2011 her remains will leave CHC at 3:00 pm and will be escorted to the residence of Jose A. & Rosa T. Lizama in Koblerville for viewing. Rosary will be said at 7:00 pm followed by Responso service at 7:45 pm. Final Rosary will be said at 11:30 pm.

On Saturday, January 29, 2011 her remains will leave the residence in Koblerville at 9:30am and will be escorted to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am, followed immediately by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, and Thank You

**Jose A. Jr. & Rosa T. Lizama (Aguas/Pinalik-Tako)
 Jerome C. Delos Santos (Rikko Jedd and Rocco Je)
 and Family**

'Twilight,' 'Airbender' lead Razzies with 9 noms

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Vampires, werewolves and airbenders lead the pack at the Razzies, an Academy Awards spoof that hands out prizes for the year's worst films.

The blockbuster supernatural tale "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" and the action fantasy "The Last Airbender" tied for the most nominations Monday with nine each, including worst picture.

Also nominated for worst picture are Jennifer Aniston's action comedy "The Bounty Hunter," Sarah Jessica Parker's romantic romp "Sex and the City 2" and the "Twilight" parody "Vampires Suck."

"Twilight" star Kristen Stewart had a worst-actress nomination for her role as a teen caught in a love triangle involving her vampire boyfriend (Robert Pattinson) and werewolf pal (Taylor Lautner). Pattinson and Lautner both were nominated for worst actor.

Razzies founder John Wilson said that though "Vampires Suck" was a "Twilight" spoof, "Eclipse" actually was funnier to watch.

"I know people who are into 'Twilight' who take it totally seriously and they're very vociferous," Wilson said. "Those of us who are not 'Twi-hards', we don't get it. I don't actually know any teenage girls who have had to make the choice between a werewolf and a vampire."

"The Last Airbender" was adapted from the animated TV series about a young hero with the power to reunite feuding nations of people who can control air, water, fire and earth. "Last Airbender" filmmaker M. Night Shyamalan received Razzie nominations for worst director and screenplay.

"All of this gobbledygook language about airbenders and fire benders and water benders," Wilson said. "You feel like you're on a bender watching the movie. It's completely illogical."

The Razzies lineup was announced a day before Oscar nominations come out. Razzie winners, chosen by the group's roughly 600 voters, will be announced Feb. 26, the night before the Oscars.

Three Oscar-winning divas are among nominees for worst supporting actress—Cher for the song-and-dance tale "Burlesque," Liza Minnelli for "Sex and the City 2" and Barbra Streisand for the comedy sequel "Little Fockers."

Jackson Rathbone had a supporting-actor nomination for roles in both "The Last Airbender" and "Eclipse." Dev Patel and Nicola Peltz also had supporting nominations for "Last Airbender."

The entire casts of "Eclipse" and "Last Airbender" were among nominees for worst screen couple or ensemble.

"Last Airbender" also was chosen for worst eye-gouging misuse of 3-D, a special cat-



In this file publicity image released by Summit Entertainment, Kristen Stewart and James Pattinson are shown in a scene from "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse."

For X-Men, the heat is on

By GEOFF BOUCHER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—The movie posters promise that "X-Men: First Class" will be released on June 3, but on Tuesday cameras were still rolling on the Fox film's set, and director Matthew Vaughn, making his biggest major studio feature film to date, sounded like a man running out of time.

"I'm at that stage where I feel like a boxer against the ropes," the director said as his crew prepared for the next shot on a location set in Long Beach, Calif. "I'm just throwing punches and taking them as they come and making sure I don't hit the canvas."

In the pages of Marvel Comics, the X-Men have been the ultimate outsiders for decades—even other superheroes view the strange mutant crew with mistrust, prejudice and disdain. So it's fitting that "First Class," the fifth Hollywood adventure for the heroes, will arrive in theaters this summer with so much to prove and plenty of doubters. For the all-new cast (led by James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender) the challenge is to replace the familiar faces of the franchise; for producer Bryan Singer the challenge is to recapture the affection of comic-book movie fans; and for Vaughn the challenge is, well, to actually finish making the film.

"We're filming at the moment. We've a lot to get done," said a weary Vaughn, whose credits include memorable but modest-grossing indie fare such as "Kick-Ass" and "Layer Cake." "I've never worked under such time pressure. The good thing about the independent world is I never even

knew if I was going to get distribution. I'm used to finishing a film and then crossing your fingers that someone is going to like it. This is totally doing it the other way around. We've definitely got a release date, and we've got to make it."

Vaughn is famous for firebrand candor, and the British filmmaker isn't turning meek under the pressure. Asked whether he's concerned about the glut of superhero film competition this summer—with "Captain America: The First Avenger," "Green Lantern" and "Thor"—Vaughn said that, if anything, it's the other guys who should be nervous. "With 'Green Lantern,' I don't know about that one, I couldn't get my head around the trailer, to be honest ... look, I will say the following: X-Men as a brand is bigger than Captain America, Thor and the Green Lantern, all put together."

And that is the X-factor that Fox is counting on. The four mutant-hero movies to date have pulled in \$1.53 billion in worldwide box office, and even when the hardcore fans of the comics grumbled about the quality of the movie (as they did with the Brett Ratner's 2006 installment, "X-Men: The Last Stand"), many of them still bought tickets just so they could join in the intense Internet debates. The opposite of love isn't hate; it's apathy. And to date, there has been no apathy when it comes to the X-Men characters that created a publishing bonanza for Marvel in the 1980s and 1990s.

"First Class" is being described as an origin story by the studio and is set in the 1960s, the same decade that artist Jack Kirby and writer Stan Lee introduced the uncanny X-Men into the cosmic melodrama of



their expanding Marvel universe. McAvoy is taking on the role of young Charles Xavier, the leader of the X-Men, and Fassbender is Erik Lehnsherr, the man who will become the evil Magneto.

McAvoy and Fassbender are taking over movie roles originated by Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen, respectively, two actors who are practically revered among sci-fi and fantasy fans for their work in the "Star Trek" and "The Lord of the Rings" universes.

McAvoy has flipped between roles of art-house acclaim ("Atonement," "The Last King of Scotland") and work in special-effects blockbusters (the first "Chronicles of Narnia" film, "Wanted"), and he said that Stewart's work as the wheelchair-bound Xavier is something he views as a counterpoint, not as competition.

"This isn't a reboot so I'm not replacing anyone, in which case you might want to try to be as different as possible and stay away from what had been done before," McAvoy said on Monday during a break from a rescue scene that required

water-tank work. "This is a prequel, so I'm the same character, just younger, but the challenge for me—and for Michael—is to show the same person in a different place in their life; to show someone before they're this bad guy, before they're this saint. Charles wasn't always... this selfless, sexless monk that he becomes."

The plot of this film is still under wraps, but it presents a world where super-powered mutants are living in secret and don't face the public scrutiny and prejudice that are central themes in the earlier films, which are primarily set in the modern day. The friendship of future foes Xavier and Lehnsherr is the heart of the film—Singer says the two have a common cause and different approaches, and he even used the life trajectories of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X as a shorthand for their veering paths.

Vaughn said the movie will be the first X-Men film without the most famous face of the franchise, Hugh Jackman's Wolverine, and key characters such as Cyclops, Storm and Jean Grey give way to new

egory to mark Hollywood's current craze for shooting in three dimensions or converting 2-D movies to 3-D. The other 3-D nominees are "Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore," "Clash of the Titans," "The Nutcracker in 3-D" and "Saw 3D."

Along with worst-actress contenders Stewart and Aniston, the four "gal pals" in "Sex and the City 2"—Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon—shared a nomination. Also up for worst-actress are Miley Cyrus for the teen drama "The Last Song" and Megan Fox for the action flop "Jonah Hex."

Cyrus' father, Billy Ray Cyrus, had a supporting-actor nomination for "The Spy Next Door."

Joining Pattinson and Lautner in the worst-actor category are Jack Black for the fantasy comedy "Gulliver's Travels," Gerard Butler for "The Bounty Hunter" and Ashton Kutcher for the action comedy "Killers" and the romance "Valentine's Day."

screen arrivals such as Emma Frost (January Jones), Azazel (Jason Flemyng) and Havok (Lucas Till).

Singer directed the first two "X-Men" films—which many observers cite as the starting-point of more sophisticated treatment of superheroes in cinema—and then left the franchise to direct "Superman Returns," a movie that failed to capture pop-culture lightning in a bottle as the filmmaker hoped. Now he's returning as a producer for this installment and still hopes to direct another X-movie in the near future.

He praised Vaughn's vision and attention to detail and said the problems the production is now facing will be overcome.

"The biggest challenge is introducing an audience to these characters in a different time—characters the audience is familiar with but now see played by younger actors and in a story taking place in a different time. ... You have to put your characters out there and introduce them to a quizzical public that sort of recognizes them. But that very thing is the exciting part of it."

Leno named winner of Harvard's Hasty Pudding award



AP
This March 7, 2010 file photo shows comedian Jay Leno at the Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood, Calif.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Massachusetts native Jay Leno is Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Man of the Year.

Hasty Pudding Theatricals is the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe. It says "The Tonight Show" host was selected because

he has "entertained millions of people over his long and accomplished career in comedy."

Leno follows in the footsteps of his "Tonight Show" mentor Johnny Carson. He won the Hasty Pudding award in 1977.

Leno is to receive his pudding

pot at a roast Feb. 4. Actress Julianne Moore was named Hasty Pudding's Woman of the Year last week.

The awards are presented annually to performers who have made a lasting and impressive contribution to entertainment.

Rocker Bret Michaels has successful heart surgery

PHOENIX (AP)—Officials at a Phoenix hospital say rocker Bret Michaels' surgery to close a hole in his heart was successful.

A surgical team at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix performed the procedure Monday.

A hospital spokeswoman says

Michaels is recuperating and remains in the hospital's intensive care unit for observation.

Doctors discovered the hole in Michaels' heart in April when he was treated for a brain hemorrhage.

Doctors inserted a catheter into a vein in Michaels' groin with a

closure device, and tiny cameras assisted doctors as they operated to close the hole.

The closure device will remain in Michaels' heart permanently to stop abnormal blood flow between two chambers of his heart, which is thought to have caused the warning stroke he suffered.

Aguilera to sing national anthem at Super Bowl

NEW YORK (AP)—Christina Aguilera will sing the national anthem at the Super Bowl in Texas on Feb. 6.

The five-time Grammy award winning singer will be making an encore at the NFL championship. She was part of the halftime show during the 2000 Super Bowl.

The NFL and Fox made the announcement Monday.

Other stars to have sung the na-

tional anthem at the Super Bowl include Carrie Underwood, Billy Joel, Diana Ross, Neil Diamond, Mariah Carey and Beyonce Knowles.

The previously announced halftime show will feature The Black Eyed Peas.

The Pittsburgh Steelers will play the Green Bay Packers at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, for the NFL title.

NZ tourism agency apologizes to Anna Faris

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's state tourism agency apologized to American actress Anna Faris on Tuesday for attacking her credibility after she described New Zealand men as vulgar. Faris recently told U.S. talk show host George Lopez that New Zealand men had yelled obscenities at her while she was in the country filming the movie "Yogi Bear." She said she was walking home from the movie set when separate carloads of men shouted profanities at her.

Tourism New Zealand spokesman Ian Long was quoted by the New Zealand Herald on Sunday as saying: "In the same segment, she accepts an award for being a pot-head stoner of the year ... I don't think she has any credibility."

The "Scary Movie" star was appearing on the chat show Lopez To-

night to promote "Yogi Bear" when she revealed she had recently won a "Stony," a jocular award sponsored by High Times magazine, for her portrayal of a pot user.

In a statement on Tuesday, the tourism agency apologized for any offense its remarks had caused.

"The inference that Tourism NZ did not take Ms. Faris' comments seriously is very much regretted and was certainly not intended," Tourism New Zealand said.

"On a U.S. talk show Ms. Faris spoke about disrespectful behavior she experienced during her stay in New Zealand and as a consequence her impression of New Zealand men is, to say the least, poor."

The agency said it would offer Faris some "great Kiwi hospitality" to make up for its comments and the vulgar behavior she experienced.



AP
In this Jan. 16, 2011 file photo, singer Christina Aguilera arrives for the Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

'Nice guy' wants some control over his explosions of anger

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have an issue that has me concerned, and I need some expertise. I have a problem with anger. I don't know what triggers it. It happens out of the blue sometimes.



Dear Abby

I have never struck out in anger toward another person, but people have witnessed my outbursts and seemed taken aback by the behavior. The instances occur every month or two.

I'm a nice guy. I would bend over backward to help someone if I could. My verbal explosions contradict who I am inside. Do you have any suggestions on what I can do to control my temper in these situations?

HOTHEAD IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR HOTHEAD: Anger is a normal emotion. Everyone has experienced it at one time or another. When primitive men and women were faced with a potential threat, they reacted instinctively with either fear or anger. It was nature's way of enabling us to run away or fight back. Even infants display anger by screaming or holding their breath until they turn red. And we've all seen older children throw tantrums, holler and throw things.

Whatever is causing your angry outbursts, it is important to analyze what has been triggering them. Being out of work, unable to pay one's bills or feeling unfairly treated can arouse feelings of anger. Being hurt emotionally by someone can cause it, too. People have been known to become angry if their beliefs or values are questioned or threatened.

Low self-esteem can also cause people to feel easily threatened. Many people who suffer from chronic low self-esteem feel they must continually prove themselves. To compensate for their feelings of inadequacy, they are driven to "win every battle," whether at sports or in an argument.

People who are overly tired have been known to lash out without real provocation. Being physically ill can have the same effect. (You can break that cycle by simply explaining that you're not feeling well and ask for patience because your temper is short at such times.)

Depression, drugs and alcohol abuse have long been known to cause people to lose control of their emotions and say—and do—things they later regret. I publish a booklet, "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It," that was created to help people learn to control their anger. For people of all ages, it is a kind of survival guide to help them understand their anger and appropriately deal with it. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus a check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds), to Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Most of us have been trained from early childhood to suppress anger. But it is even more important to learn to express it in ways that are constructive rather than destructive. Anger can be a positive emotion if it is channeled in the right direction. Uncontrolled, it can be a killer.

Now that we have become somewhat—one hopes—civilized adults, the challenge we face when something angers us is how to deal with it effectively and constructively, rather than thoughtlessly reacting.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Colbert will speak at Northwestern commencement

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP)—Satirist Stephen Colbert is returning to his alma mater as a commencement speaker. Northwestern University announced Monday the host of TV's "The Colbert Report" will address the June 17 ceremony on its Evanston campus. It was at Northwestern in the mid-1980s that Colbert switched from plans to study serious acting and instead joined an improvisation team. After graduation he joined the comic Second City touring team. He recently told Northwestern magazine that he switched from serious theater after realizing that failing onstage in comedy can be funny, and healthier. No word yet on what advice he'll give this year's grads.

Jimmy Fallon to host the Roots' 7th Jam Session

NEW YORK (AP)—Hip-hop band the Roots have given Jimmy Fallon a boost as the house band on his late-night TV show. And he's returning the favor. Fallon will host the group's seventh annual "Roots Jam Session" on Feb. 12 in Hollywood. The musical event, which features live performances from artists of various genres, is on the eve of the 53rd annual Grammy Awards, and the Roots is up for six awards, including best rap album for "How I Got Over." The other five nominations come from the Philadelphia-based band's collaborative album with John Legend, the critically acclaimed "Wake Up!" Past "Jam Session" hosts include Legend, Don Cheadle, Jada Pinkett-Smith and Dave Chappelle. Performers have yet to be announced.

Lil Wayne to kick off first tour since jail

NEW YORK (AP)—Fans who missed Lil Wayne during his year-long stint behind bars will get a chance to show their love for the multiplatinum rapper in person: He's kicking off a 25-city tour in March with an all-star supporting cast. Nicki Minaj, Rick Ross, Travis Barker and Mixmaster Mike will accompany Lil Wayne on his "I Am Music II" tour, which will start in Buffalo, N.Y., on March 18 and hit cities such as Atlanta, Miami, Washington and his hometown of New Orleans. Although Lil Wayne released the album "I Am Not a Human Being" while in a New York jail for a weapons charge last year, he's gearing up for a big return to the scene in 2011. He's got a hit "6 Foot 7 Foot" and is due to release "Tha Carter IV" this spring.

Judge recommends probation for doctor of Octomom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California judge believes Octomom Nadya Suleman's fertility doctor should be allowed to keep practicing medicine, and the state's move to revoke his license was too severe, according to a copy of the proposed decision obtained Monday. Dr. Michael Kamrava should be placed on probation for five years for his substandard treatment of Suleman and two other patients, Judge Daniel Juarez said in the 46-page document provided to The Associated Press. The Beverly Hills fertility doctor still faces a final decision by the Medical Board of California, which is expected to meet this week to discuss the case and other business. The board can approve the judge's decision or come up with its own punishment for Kamrava.

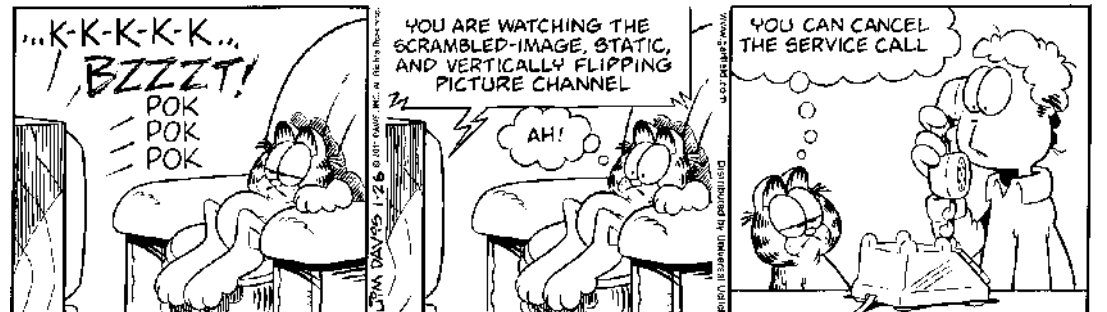
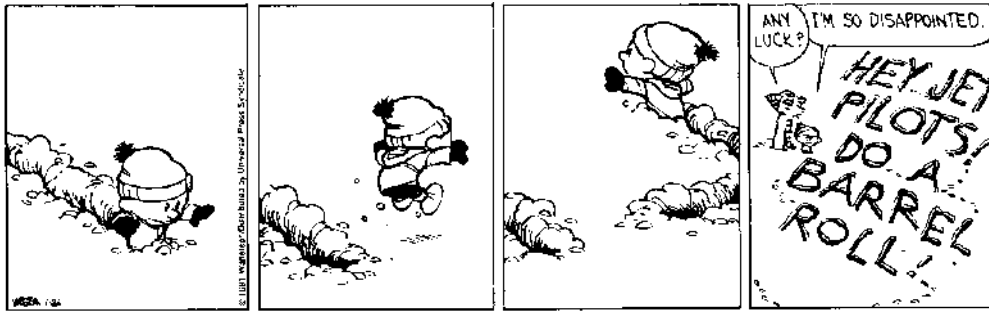
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Writer Kingsley
5 Petrol
8 Spaces
12 Swag
13 Have bills
14 Ear-related
15 One present
17 Maestro Klemperer
18 Barber-shop request
19 Humble
21 Tend texts
24 Foolish one
25 Read, in a way
28 Lowers the lights
30 Definite article
33 Mr. Sajak
34 Expense record
35 A billion years
36 Illustrations
37 Addict
38 Probability

DOWN

39 Inquire
41 Leeway
43 Hidden away
46 Got wind of
50 War
51 Lawyer
54 Find
55 William
56 Color quality
57 Uncomplicated
58 "See ya"
59 Picnic invaders

3 Tittle
4 Spielberg
5 Tyler
6 Shock
7 Deity
8 Merchant
9 Swore
10 Peach
11 Highlander
16 Homer's neighbor
20 Brewer's oven
22 Mid-month date
23 River through Rome
25 Resort
26 Automobile
27 Ties on
29 Muralist
31 Scuttle
32 Type
34 Member of the nobility
38 Conspiracy of silence
40 As an introvert would
42 Discoverer's call
43 Halter, for one
44 On the briny
45 Smear
47 In due time
48 Landlord's due
49 Turns blue?
52 Give it a go
53 Dead heat

Solution time: 21 mins.

H	Y	P	E	G	U	S	C	E	O
R	O	A	M	A	P	T	M	O	D
S	U	H	P	H	I	S	E	T	O
B	E	A	R	D	R	A	N	K	
S	L	E	S		S	U	R	V	E
B	A	A	M	O	C	Y	A	G	O
S	U	R	N	A	M	E	S	F	R
A	G	E	S		J	A	D	E	S
B	E	S	T	R		B	A	R	
O	A	H		S	U	R	R	O	U
S	A	R		F	R	E		F	R
H	Y	D	E		I	N	I		F

Yesterday's answer 1-25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Rue, 32; Ellen DeGeneres, 53; Eddie Van Halen, 56; Lucinda Williams, 58

Happy Birthday: Don't let your emotions stand in the way of common sense. Ask for sound advice or the help you need before you make a move that will be difficult to reverse. Reflect on the past and use your experience to bring about a better future. You are sitting in a more powerful position than you realize. Your numbers are 8, 13, 18, 21, 34, 42, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Go behind the scenes and work quietly so you don't lose momentum. Balance will be required if you are to put your time and talent to good use. Don't let someone else's lack of support hold you back. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may face a letdown that seems to be insurmountable but, if you learn from the experience, you will pick up the knowledge and expertise you require to move in a new direction. Travel, communication and redirection will help you find your way. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be creative and think outside the box. A relationship may be going through changes so, before allowing it to spin out of control, consider what it means to you and make the necessary adjustments. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's all about how you handle people. Using diplomacy will be required and, with a couple of promises, you can also ensure that you

get the support you need to successfully reach your own goals. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Go over what you have done in the past and make sure you haven't damaged a relationship. Doing your backtracking now will allow you to move forward with projects or personal pursuits later this year. Be the one who is mature and insightful. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't keep your plans to yourself when sharing is what you need to do to excel. You can iron out problems and make any necessary adjustments that will ensure success. Don't let a personal dilemma slow you down. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Home may be where the heart should be but it will be difficult for that to happen if you feel unappreciated. Do something that you find exhilarating and you will be motivated to incorporate new interests and people into your life. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotional self-deception is apparent and will be your downfall. Recognize what and who are good for you. Your success depends on your actions. Following through will lead to bigger and better things. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get involved in something that inspires and motivates you. Continually doing what others want will lead to bad feelings. Consider a move or change in your personal life that will enable you to resurrect your goals, leading to your success. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Point yourself in the direction you feel is most suitable and don't look back. Determination and rethinking your approach will help you gain ground and enhance your chance of getting the support required to move forward. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep your personal thoughts to yourself and avoid any emotional situations that may stand in the way of accomplishing what needs to be done. A costly mistake is likely if you act without thinking. Collect old debts or pay off what you owe if possible. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You have lots of options. Your ability to pull things together will help you get the recognition that you want. A burden due to a partnership from the past needs to be lifted in order to make the most of what you are trying to do now. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are highly intuitive but often let your emotions overrule. You are caring, sensitive, passionate and creative.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			1						
5	6		3	2	4			1	8
	2		8		5	3			4
	9		5		7				6
	1		2		6				7
	7	8					5	4	
		3				6			
			7		3				
			1	5	2				

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/25

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	1	6	3	8	9	2	7
8	3	7	2	9	5	1	4	6
6	9	2	7	1	4	5	3	8
1	2	6	3	8	9	7	5	4
3	8	4	5	7	2	6	9	1
7	5	9	1	4	6	2	8	3
9	7	5	8	6	3	4	1	2
2	6	3	4	5	1	8	7	9
4	1	8	9	2	7	3	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE OREGON TRAIL

Solution: 7 letters

V	R	E	V	I	R	E	K	A	N	S	S	R	E	S
F	A	R	M	E	R	S	N	E	Y	P	A	I	R	T
N	N	V	O	S	T	B	B	E	O	F	R	T	O	E
E	C	R	C	T	K	R	N	R	T	U	O	W	L	A
M	H	O	E	O	A	R	T	O	O	W	N	O	E	M
S	E	T	F	S	U	L	A	S	M	S	O	N	T	B
S	R	S	K	O	A	V	S	L	M	R	O	R	D	O
E	S	A	J	N	R	I	E	E	C	I	O	A	K	A
N	T	S	D	O	M	T	N	R	T	P	O	M	E	T
I	R	U	E	L	H	E	T	A	A	R	T	A	R	R
S	A	P	O	E	O	N	R	C	E	N	L	P	O	A
U	D	P	T	R	L	G	I	G	E	K	I	P	L	V
B	E	L	S	E	I	F	O	H	E	A	D	E	P	E
R	W	Y	O	M	I	N	G	R	A	S	S	E	D	X
K	C	A	P	C	U	N	I	O	N	O	S	A	E	S

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Aster, Bison, Businessmen, Clark, Explore Farmers Fee, Foot, Fort, Gher, Gold, Grass, Head, John, Journey, Mapped, Merge, Migration, Missouri, Murnier, Nebraska, Network, Oregon, Pacific, Pack, Pike, Portland, Post, Raft, Ranchers, Road, Role, Route, Season, Site, Snake River, Steamboat, Supply, Townsman, Trace, Travels, Union, Vancouver, Wyoming
Yesterday's Answer: Neolithic
Neolithic is a geological period, and a prehistoric period of human history, lasting from the end of the last glacial period to the beginning of the Bronze Age, around 4000 BC. It is characterized by the use of polished stone tools, and the beginning of agriculture and domestication of animals.

STUMPED?

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West's late shot lifts Hornets over Thunder



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—David West swished a 17-foot fadeaway shot with 0.5 on the clock to give the New Orleans Hornets a 91-89 win over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Monday and their ninth straight NBA win.

Chris Paul made a critical steal with 10 seconds left and finished with 24 points, nine assists and three steals.

West had 20 points for New Orleans, which overcame a 15-point first-half deficit and then held Oklahoma City to one basket during the final 4:19. He hit the Hornets' final four baskets with jump shots of 16 feet or more.

Kevin Durant scored 22 points for the Thunder but missed all five of his shots in the fourth quarter, including several in the final minutes as the Hornets erased a late four-point deficit.

Spurs 113, Warriors 102

In Oakland, San Antonio endured Tim Duncan's brief injury scare before beating Golden State.

Duncan went down with a left knee injury in the second quarter that had the entire Spurs bench worried. He returned to finish with 16 points and seven rebounds, alleviating fears after what initially appeared to be a serious fall.

Manu Ginobili had 20 points and seven assists as the NBA-leading Spurs cruised to an otherwise stress-free victory that clinched the Western Conference's best record through games of Feb. 6. That means Spurs coach Gregg Popovich will coach the West squad in the All-Star game Feb. 20 at Los Angeles.

Golden State's David Lee had a season-high 31 points to go with 12 rebounds.

Bulls 92, Bucks 83

In Chicago, Kurt Thomas scored 22 points to lead Chicago past Milwaukee.

Thomas scored his most points since Jan. 25, 2005. He also had nine rebounds and five assists.

Derrick Rose added 21 points and 10 assists for the Bulls.

The Bucks were led by Chris Douglas-Roberts, who scored a season-high 30 points, one shy of his career high.



New Orleans Hornets forward David West (30) goes up against Oklahoma City Thunder's Nick Collison (4) and Serge Ibaka (9) in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Monday, Jan. 24, 2011.

Pistons 103, Magic 96

In Orlando, Tracy McGrady, Tayshaun Prince and Austin Daye each scored 20 points to help Detroit beat Orlando.

The Pistons scored 26 points off 16 Orlando turnovers and shot 50 percent from 3-point range to earn their first victory of the season over the Magic.

Orlando got 21 points off the bench from Ryan Anderson but the Magic shot poorly from beyond the arc, connecting on just seven of 27 attempts as they lost their first game in four.

76ers 105, Suns 95

In Philadelphia, Thaddeus Young scored 24 points as Philadelphia downed Phoenix.

Elton Brand had 22 points and nine rebounds for a Sixers team that was on

target from the beginning. Philadelphia shot nearly 60 percent for most of the game and built a 22-point lead in the third quarter.

Jared Dudley led the Suns with 23 points.

Knicks 115, Wizards 106

In New York, the hosts snapped a six-game losing streak while dropping Washington to 0-21 on the road.

Amare Stoudemire ended a mini-slump with 30 points and Raymond Felton ended his dismal stretch with 17 points and 15 assists as the Knicks beat Washington for the seventh straight time at Madison Square Garden.

Nick Young scored 22 points for the Wizards, now more than halfway to the NBA's first winless road mark in an 82-

game schedule. They are closing in on the longest road skid to open a season, 29 straight losses by the Dallas Mavericks in 1992-93.

Washington committed 20 turnovers that led to 24 New York points.

Grizzlies 100, Raptors 98

In Toronto, Rudy Gay hit a tiebreaking jump shot with less than a second to play, giving Memphis victory over Toronto.

and Zach Randolph had 17 points and 12 rebounds to lift Memphis over struggling Toronto.

Gay scored 21 points for the Grizzlies, who won their third straight, a season high. Randolph extended his team-record streak of double-doubles to 11.

Andrea Bargnani scored 29 points for the Raptors, whose losing skid reached eight games—their longest since 2005-06.

Toronto finished 0 for 13 from 3-point range, failing to make a single 3-pointer for the first time in 986 games, stretching back to 1998-99. The Raptors were the first team to ever have such a streak of more than 900 games.

Kings 96, Trail Blazers 81

In Portland, Sacramento beat Portland for only its fourth road victory of the season.

Tyreke Evans had 26 points, six rebounds and six assists. Carl Landry added 16 points and eight rebounds for the Kings.

Wesley Matthews scored 21 points to lead Portland, which lost its first

game in six.

Rockets 129, Timberwolves 125

In Minneapolis, Kevin Martin scored 34 points to help Houston edge Minnesota.

Shane Battier added a season-high 19 for the Rockets, who beat a Western Conference team for the first time in eight tries.

Houston's 13 straight wins over Minnesota ties the franchise record for longest winning streak against one opponent.

Kevin Love had 24 points, 17 rebounds and seven assists for the Timberwolves, who lost their fourth straight.

The Rockets made 14 3-pointers, feasting on the tumbling Timberwolves' awful defense. Minnesota entered the night worst in the NBA in points allowed and then watched Houston reach 100 inside three quarters.

Nets 103, Cavaliers 101

In Newark, New Jersey, Brook Lopez scored the winning basket with 1.4 seconds remaining as New Jersey handed Cleveland its 17th straight defeat.

Lopez led the Nets with 28 points and Anthony Morrow scored 16 off the bench.

Cleveland's losing streak is its longest since dropping 19 in a row to close the 1981-82 season.

Antawn Jamison scored 26 points to lead the Cavaliers, who have lost 21 straight road games, matching the team record set in 2002-03.

NBA BRIEFS

Clippers' Gordon stays home with sprained wrist

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Guard Eric Gordon didn't travel with the Los Angeles Clippers to Dallas on Monday for their game against the Mavericks because of a sprained right wrist. The team says Gordon will stay in Los Angeles to undergo further evaluation and treatment, and will be a game-time decision for Tuesday night's game in Dallas. Gordon was hurt in a fall during the second quarter of a win over Golden State on Saturday. He is averaging a team-high 24.1 points in 41 games.

Wade returns to practice while battling migraines

MIAMI (AP)—Heat guard Dwyane Wade wore tinted glasses for practice on Monday as he continues recovering from a migraine headache. Heat coach Erik Spoelstra says Wade "looked fine" in the workout. Wade added the glasses to protect his still-sensitive eyes from light, one of the triggers of a migraine. Meanwhile, Miami again worked out without forward Chris Bosh, whose recovery from a sprained left ankle is now entering a second week. Bosh's status for the next Heat game at New York on Thursday remains unclear. Miami was also without guard Eddie House on Monday because of a sprained ankle.

Celtics' O'Neal ruled out for Tuesday vs. Cavaliers

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—Doc Rivers knew the O'Neal veterans—Shaquille and Jermaine—would miss time with injuries after the Celtics signed them to plug the hole left by another ailment. Boston's coach just didn't think

the two free agent centers would miss as much time as they have. Shaquille O'Neal sat out practice on Monday and will be sidelined for the second straight game with a sore right hip when the Celtics try to bounce back from a loss to the lowly Washington Wizards with a win Tuesday night against the team with the worst record in the NBA, the Cleveland Cavaliers. "It's not a serious injury," Rivers said, "but he's also 38 years old and we're going to be very cautious." The Celtics start a four-game West Coast trip in Portland on Thursday night, and Rivers said he thinks O'Neal will play in at least one or two of those games.

Mavs add Stojakovic, trade Ajinca

DALLAS (AP)—Peja Stojakovic used to pile up points against the Dallas Mavericks. Now they're eager to see what he can do for them. Dallas signed Stojakovic off waivers on Monday in a bid to replace some of the scoring punch lost when Caron Butler went down with a season-ending injury. Although Stojakovic has averaged 17.2 points per game over his career, and 19.2 per game against Dallas, the Mavericks realize that's not the guy they are getting. This is the fourth straight season his average has dropped. He's also played only eight games because of knee injuries, the last on Nov. 26. Dallas is even his third stop; he started with New Orleans and was dealt to Toronto, then was waived on Thursday. The Mavs don't even know when the 33-year-old Stojakovic will suit up. "We're taking it slow," team president Donnie Nelson said. "Depends on him getting into game shape."

Tigers trade Galarraga to Diamondbacks



PHOENIX (AP)—The Arizona Diamondbacks have added depth to their pitching staff with a right-hander who was nearly perfect.

Arizona acquired Armando Galarraga in a trade with the Detroit Tigers for minor league pitchers Kevin Eichorn and Ryan Robowski on Monday, giving the Diamondbacks another arm in what should be a pretty good rotation battle in spring training.

Galarraga, 29, had an average 2010 season, but gained fame by missing a perfect game when umpire Jim Joyce acknowledged blowing a call with two outs in the ninth inning against Cleveland.

He's expected to compete for a spot in Arizona's rotation on a staff that already includes Joe Saunders, Ian Kennedy, Dan Hudson, Barry Enright, Zach Duke and Aaron Heilman.

"We are excited about the opportunity to acquire a pitcher of Armando Galarraga's ability a few weeks before

the start of spring training," Diamondbacks general manager Kevin Towers said. "Armando is a quality pitcher as well as individual that will compete for a spot in our rotation with all of the other starting pitchers this spring."

Galarraga went 4-9 with a 4.49 ERA in 24 starts and one relief appearance last season with the Tigers, gaining national attention when Joyce blew the call at first base against Cleveland and later made a tearful apology.

Galarraga, who was 13-7 with a 3.73 ERA just two years ago, is 23-26 with a 4.58 ERA over four seasons with Detroit and Texas.

He has a one-year contract for \$2.3 million, but became expendable when the Tigers signed Brad Penny.

"I talked to Armando and he was very thankful," Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski said. "He said he realized it was a business and he understood. It's a great opportunity for him. Arizona was real aggressive because they are looking for a starting

pitcher. It's a good match for everybody involved."

Eichorn, a 20-year-old right-hander, was 5-6 in 15 minor league starts last season. Left-hander Robowski, 22, was 2-4 in 35 relief games in the minors last year.

Dombrowski was satisfied with acquiring Eichorn and Robowski in exchange for a player who wasn't going to be in Detroit's rotation.

"We look at both of the guys as sort of fringe-type prospects, not blue-chip guys, but guys we think can pitch at the big-league level," Dombrowski said.

Arizona added another pitcher on Monday, signing right-hander Micah Owings to a minor league contract. Owings, who pitched for the Diamondbacks in 2007-08, was 3-2 with a 5.40 ERA in 22 relief appearances for the Cincinnati Reds last season.

The Diamondbacks also designated right-hander Rafael Rodriguez for assignment.

Bears blast Cutler's critics



LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)—Jay Cutler finally got some protection.

The Chicago Bears rushed to their quarterback's defense on Monday, blasting current and former players who in Twitter posts questioned his toughness for sitting out most of the second half of Sunday's 21-14 NFC championship game loss to Green Bay with a knee injury.

"I think it's crap," general manager Jerry Angelo said. "I thought they were a union. If that's the way they unionize themselves, they got bigger issues than the one that they have with the owners. I'm very disappointed. That, to me, is dirty pool."

Jacksonville Jaguars running back Maurice Jones-Drew and Arizona Cardinals defensive lineman Darnell Dockett, along with former players like Deion Sanders and ESPN analyst Mark Schlereth, were among those criticizing Cutler on Sunday.

To that, coach Lovie Smith said, "Our quarterback's a tough guy. ... It's pretty simple what happened yesterday. Before the half, Jay hurt his knee. He showed a lot of toughness to continue to play with it."

Smith said Cutler sprained the medial collateral ligament in his left knee late in the first half and would have been questionable for the Feb. 6 Super Bowl had the Bears beaten Green Bay. He also emphasized the team and medical staff made the call to lift the quarterback, who played the first series in the third quarter before standing on the sideline.

Cutler underwent an MRI on Monday and was at Halas Hall. He did not make himself available to the media and declined comment on the criticism after the game.

His coach and teammates had plenty to say, though. They were particularly peeved about a series of Twitter posts by current and former players ripping Cutler.

"I'll just tell you this, the one thing I know about Jay Cutler is he's tough," said third-string quarterback Caleb Hanie, who led a late comeback bid. "Another thing I know about him is he's going to stand up for his teammates. He didn't want to let his teammates down. So if he could have been on the field and been productive for the team, he would have done it."

Receiver Earl Bennett, Cutler's teammate at Vanderbilt, called the criticism "very unprofessional."

Defensive tackle Anthony Adams labeled it "garbage" and "unfair."

And tight end Greg Olsen said, "I think it's insane. I think anyone who's ever watched us, that would probably be the last thing anyone's ever questioned."

Yet current and former players alike were doing just that.

Jones-Drew, who played the first 14 games with a partially torn meniscus in his right knee before shutting it down, posted two comments about Cutler. He first compared the quarterback to former Florida coach Urban Meyer, who resigned in December, then wrote: "All I'm saying is that he can finish the game on a hurt knee ... I played the whole season on one."

"I threw out this joke and the backlash came in," Jones-Drew told The Associated Press in a telephone interview on Monday. "I tried to make it



Chicago Bears quarterback Jay Cutler watches the action against the Green Bay Packers from the sideline during the second half of the NFC Championship NFL football game Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011, in Chicago.

right, but it backfired."

Jones-Drew said he was rooting for Cutler and the Bears on Sunday, and acknowledged the knee injury was serious enough to leave the game. He

also said he had received death threats from Bears fans.

Dockett posted, "If I'm on Chicago team Jay Cutler has to wait till me and the team shower get dressed and leave

before he comes in the locker room!"

Schlereth wrote, "As a guy how had 20 knee surgeries you'd have to drag me out on a stretcher to leave a championship game!"

Federer advances; Li reaches back-to-back semis



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Defending champion Roger Federer advanced to the Australian Open semifinals with a 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 win over Stanislas Wawrinka on Tuesday in a mismatch that had all the intensity of a practice session.

Federer, aiming to become the first man to win five Australian titles, was playing in his record-tying 27th consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinal. He is into his eighth consecutive semifinal at Melbourne Park.

No. 19 Wawrinka was playing at this stage for only the second time at a major and struggled against Federer in the first all-Swiss quarterfinal at a Grand Slam. He had only beaten Federer once in their seven previous matches.

Federer and Wawrinka combined to win the Beijing Olympics doubles gold medal for Switzerland and have been Davis Cup teammates. So meeting on such a big stage had challenges for both men.

"I play Stan obviously very different to what (Andy) Roddick or (Gael) Monfils or what other players might do against him. Clearly it's not an easy match for him also," Federer said. "I've been in so many quarterfinals, in this situation so many times before, that I have the experience and I have the game to, you know, be tricky for him."

"The scoreline suggests maybe it was easier than it looked like. I thought it was a pretty tough match."

Wawrinka had only one look at a break chance against the 16-time Grand Slam winner, in the sixth

game of the second set, and lost three straight points to let Federer off the hook.

Federer cashed in on five of his seven break opportunities.

Wawrinka received a code violation for smashing his racket into the ground, shattering the frame, after falling behind 2-0 in the third. His intensity picked up, but it was too late.

Federer next plays the winner of Tuesday's later match between No. 3 Novak Djokovic and Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych. Federer's last two Grand Slam losses have come against them—against Berdych at Wimbledon and Djokovic at the U.S. Open. Djokovic also beat Federer in the semifinals here in 2008 before going on to win the title.

For Federer, the match will be more about making the final than seeking revenge.

"I got them back a couple of times at the end of the year," he said. "I don't feel like I need to get back at them necessarily, but I'm not just going to come out here and give them the match."

Li Na beat Andrea Petkovic 6-2, 6-4 to reach back-to-back semifinals at the Australian Open, and set new benchmarks for tennis in China.

She is more confident of going one better this time.

Li, who lost the 2010 semifinal in two tiebreak sets to eventual champion Serena Williams, came to Melbourne after winning the title at a tuneup event in Sydney and is on a 10-match winning streak.

"It's good for me. I mean, the second time in the Grand Slam semifinal, always in the Australia Open, and also before I played well in Syd-

ney," she said. "Hopefully I can do better in this year, and everyone will see me again."

The 28-year-old Li was the only quarterfinalist from the last Australian Open to reach the last eight this year.

She already has been a trailblazer for tennis in her country - the first Chinese woman to win a WTA tour event, and the first to enter the top 10. Her run to the Wimbledon quarterfinals in 2006 was the best for a Chinese player in a major at the time. Now her return to the semis is a first.

No Chinese woman has won a major, but Petkovic thinks that can change here.

"I think she played really well. I think she's going to win the tournament," Petkovic said. "She moves very well, she has a great footwork. She takes the ball very early. She plays flat and deep. She has this sneaky aggressive play, I would call it."

Li thanked Petkovic for the vote of confidence, but said she still had two difficult steps to make. A win would certainly be career defining.

"Wow, amazing for me, amazing for my team," she said when asked how she'd react to winning a Grand Slam title. "Maybe amazing for China tennis also."

The first difficult stage: her next match is against the winner of the later quarterfinal between No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki and French Open champion Francesca Schiavone.

On Monday night, Rafael Nadal reached the quarters with a 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 win over Marin Cilic, extending his winning streak to 25 in Grand Slam matches.

Nadal already holds the French,

And Sanders had this to say, "I'm telling u in the playoffs u must drag me off the field. All the medicine in pro lockerooms this dude comes out! I apologize bear fans! ... Folks i never question a players injury but i do question a players heart."

The way the Bears see it, Cutler doesn't owe anyone an apology. They think he's owed a few, in fact.

"I can't even believe I'm sitting here talking about Cutler's toughness," Angelo said.

Cutler is often criticized for his demeanor, along with his decisions during games. But his toughness? That's a new one.

No one took a bigger pounding this season.

The league-leading 52 sacks barely reflected the number of hits he absorbed. He was constantly under pressure, particularly in the early going, and even when he runs, he'll often take the tackle rather than slide. He did it again at least once against the Packers.

"We're in a perception business," Angelo said. "I certainly didn't like what was said. I take that personally, too. He's our quarterback. We wouldn't have been where we're at without him, and I want that to be made clear. We stand by him."

Green Bay defensive lineman B.J. Raji said he also thought the criticism was "pretty wrong and a lot times it has a lot to do with jealousy."

"We hit the guy pretty hard, we broke out some different angles, all different places on the field," Raji said. "I mean, he is a warrior. Any time a player has the longevity that he has had in this league you are a tough guy."

Wimbledon and U.S. Open crowns and is three wins from an Australian title. Nobody has held all four men's majors at once since Rod Laver in a calendar year in 1969.

He next plays fellow Spaniard David Ferrer, who fended off big-serving 20-year-old Canadian qualifier Milos Raonic 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

In the previous round, Nadal had complained that a virus he picked up two weeks ago in Qatar left him weak and caused him to sweat more than usual.

"The two other days I was sweating like crazy and I felt very tired when I played the match," he said. "Today was the first day that I felt perfect physically. So that is the most important thing."

Andy Murray, the last man to beat Nadal at a major—in their quarterfinal here last year—made only 10 unforced errors in a 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 win over No. 11 Jurgen Melzer. In the quarterfinals, he'll meet Alexandr Dolgoplov, who ousted French Open finalist Robin Soderling 1-6, 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2.

On the women's side, No. 3 Kim Clijsters beat Ekaterina Makarova 7-6 (3), 6-2, and No. 2 Vera Zvonareva kept rolling toward a possible third consecutive Grand Slam final with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Iveta Benesova.

Zvonareva moved into a quarterfinal against No. 25 Petra Kvitova, who rallied past No. 22 Flavia Pennetta 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

No. 12 Agnieszka Radwanska beat China's Peng Shuai 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 and in the quarters will meet Clijsters, the growing favorite for the women's title.

Saipan to host AVC Sub Zonal tourney

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



The best volleyball players from around the region will converge on Saipan in the first week of March when the island hosts the Asian Volleyball Confederation Beach Volleyball Oceania Continental Sub Zonal Tournament.

The prestigious event will be held at Pacific Islands Club from March 4 to March 6 and will have local spikers compete against teams from Australia, Guam, and Papua New Guinea. Both men and women’s divisions compete in two-person teams.

The games will begin at 9am on both dates and pre-registration is mandatory in order to participate. Check www.nmi-volleyball.org for registration and eligibility criteria.

Aside from gathering the best players of Asia and Oceania in one tournament, the sub zonal also marks the first time the CNMI will host an Olympic qualifying event.

The Federation International

de Volleyball (FIVB) introduced this new qualification process for the London 2012 Olympic games last September. AVC and the Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association will be coordinating the event.

Formatted to feature country versus country competition, participants of sub zonal tournaments will compete for berths in the AVC Continental Zonal Tournament. From there, teams will compete for 24 London 2012 Olympic Games Beach Volleyball Qualification vacancies, per gender, in the AVC Continental Cup Finals with 2012 Olympic slots being the ultimate target.

This will be the first sub zonal tournament for the Oceania zone. Two other Oceania sub-zonal tourneys are scheduled in the region.

The second will be held from May 17 to May 21 on Vanuatu and the third leg will be hosted by Samoa from May 23 to May 27. The Oceania region will offer double-gender competition. AVC will launch similar campaigns in the Eastern, Central, Southeastern, and Western

zones; these zones will feature two sub zonal tourneys apiece.

A total of 41 countries have hosted and competed in the AVC Continental Beach Volleyball Cup since the competition began on Sept. 23, 2010. Three 2012 Olympic vacancies are up for grabs.

The Continental Cup includes 154 nations across five continents. It is structured with sub zonal, zonal, and continental finals levels of competition.

The Oceania Continental Cup finals will have a total of 16 teams. The Top 3 teams from each zone will be promoted to the Continental Cup finals; host teams automatically receive a spot in the final round. In the case of the host team being ranked in the Top 3 qualifiers, the fourth-ranked country of their zonal tournament will progress.

If the winning teams do not already have two Olympic Qualifiers from their country based on world rankings then they will qualify for the 2012 Olympics. The second and third ranked teams will then move on to the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Cup for another chance to qualify for the

2012 Olympic games.

In related news, NMIVA is calling a mandatory Q&A

SISTER

From Page 28

free throw and was caught stepping on the 15-foot line, nullifying his second charity.

Satbati was forced to give up fouls in IP&E Konflikt’s possessions to stop the clock. Satbati’s fifth foul sent Kae Bernardo to the line and the IP&E Konflikt forward sealed the win with his two charities.

Ivan De Vero paced IP&E Konflikt with 24 points.

In the second game, IT&E Fundamentalists held Prospects to only a field goal in the first six minutes of the second quarter to control the game and win for the first time after two futile attempts.

The match was tied after the first quarter, 8-8, before IT&E Fundamentalists broke away in the second period, outgunning Prospects, 16-5. Prospects had its first field goal in the second period off Keoni Chariton’s long jumper in the opening minutes of that canto. However, the second one came at the 3:45 mark of the second period off Derrick Aughenbaugh’s undergoal stab.

meeting on Thursday, Jan. 27, 6:30pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium conference

In contrast, IT&E Fundamentalists picked up their scoring in the second half, firing two triples and drawing points from five different players for a 24-13 lead. IT&E Fundamentalists upped the advantage to as much as 19 in the third period before Prospects trimmed it down to nine, midway in that period.

However, Prospects, which missed leading scorers Darwin Barbo and Errol Peredo, went cold again, and IT&E Fundamentalists kept the double-digit lead, 42-25, going into the final canto.

The defending champion Prospects continued to struggle offensively in the fourth and just when IT&E Fundamentalists seemed headed to a quick finish, the match was halted for several minutes after Joseph White and Ray Babauta got into each other’s nerves.

The two players were both at the backcourt, pushing each other with White eventually throwing a punch to Babauta’s head and getting slapped with a unsportsmanlike foul in the process.

White, who remained on the court even after the game was already over and waited for Babauta, was suspended for four games

room for athletes interested in competing for the CNMI Beach Volleyball National Team.

for trying to start a fight during the last 29 seconds of the match.

Ben Wood top-scored for IT&E Fundamentalists with 13 points, while Babauta had nine off the bench. Prospects had no player scoring in double figures with Perry Inos leading the way with only eight markers.

First Game

IP&E Konflikt 71 – De Vero 19, Esdrelon 14, Bernardo 10, Tumaquip 6, Talania 6, Guiab 4, Mendoza 3, Santos 3, Olaitiman 3, Berline 2, De Dios 1.

Satbahi 66 – Abuel 16, Mortos 13, Sison 11, Demapan 9, Aquino 6, Paraiso 5, Concepcion 2, Palacios 2, Pantaleon 1.

Scoring by quarters: 18-15, 27-29, 56-49, 71-66.

Second Game

IT&E Fundamentalists 51 – Wood 13, Babauta 9, Stafford 8, Keizer 5, Schuler 4, Lee 4, Cooke 4, Jeon 2, Fox 2.

Prospects 35 – Inos 8, E. Aughenbaugh 7, Chariton 5, White 4, D. Aughenbaugh 4, Lauron 4, Camacho 3.

Scoring by quarters: 8-8, 24-13, 42-25, 51-35.

CNMI

From Page 28

not have been made without the strong support and commitment of the governor and other Commonwealth leaders, in both the public and the private sectors. We look forward to the bid process. We are confident that we can present an excellent proposal to the Pacific Games Council, and we are hopeful that the council will accept our bid,” White said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

“Hosting the 2017 Pacific Games will offer significant benefits to our economy, and leave a lasting sporting legacy for our people. We are confident that we can stage the Games in a manner in which we can all be proud, and which will bring credit to the CNMI,” White added.

Bids for hosting of the 2017 edition of the Mini Games is due in March this year during the Pacific Games Council meeting and in previous statements, White said Vanuatu is also expected to submit a bid for

the 2017 competition.

Fitial, in a letter to Senate President Paul Manglona, who was invited to be part of the pre-bid committee, said hosting the Games will bring positive international recognition for the CNMI.

“The media coverage of the Games is sure to attract even more tourists and returning visitors, as the Games will be attended by hundreds of athletes and officials and their families and friends. Hosting the Games will pump about \$12 million into our economy,” Fitial said.

“I am very enthusiastic about the possibility of hosting the Games,” the governor added.

Once the bid is approved and the CNMI is awarded the hosting rights, there are still lots of work to be done for the Games.

The first major challenge will be the facilities. The Oleai Sports Complex, which houses two ballfields, the track and field facility, and the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, will have to go through a major facelift to meet the Pacific Games Council standard. The Oleai Sports Complex had been the major

hub of multi-sports competitions the CNMI hosted in the

past years, including the 2006 Micronesian Games.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	33	10	.767	—
New York	23	21	.523	10 1/2
Philadelphia	19	25	.432	14 1/2
New Jersey	13	32	.289	21
Toronto	13	32	.289	21

Southeast Division

Miami	31	13	.705	—
Atlanta	29	16	.644	2 1/2
Orlando	29	16	.644	2 1/2
Charlotte	17	25	.405	13
Washington	13	30	.302	17 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	31	14	.689	—
Indiana	16	25	.390	13
Milwaukee	16	26	.381	13 1/2
Detroit	17	28	.378	14
Cleveland	8	36	.182	22 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	38	7	.844	—
New Orleans	30	16	.652	8 1/2
Dallas	28	15	.651	9
Memphis	22	23	.489	16
Houston	21	25	.457	17 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	28	16	.636	—
Utah	27	17	.614	1
Denver	25	18	.581	2 1/2
Portland	25	21	.543	4
Minnesota	10	34	.227	18

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	32	13	.711	—
Phoenix	20	23	.465	11
Golden State	19	25	.432	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	17	26	.395	14
Sacramento	10	32	.238	20 1/2

Yesterday's Games

New Jersey 103, Cleveland 101
Detroit 103, Orlando 96
Philadelphia 105, Phoenix 95
Memphis 100, Toronto 98
New York 115, Washington 106
Chicago 92, Milwaukee 83
Houston 129, Minnesota 125
New Orleans 91, Oklahoma City 89
Sacramento 96, Portland 81
San Antonio 113, Golden State 102

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	39	365	305	1102	28.3

RAYS

From Page 28

goal on Jeon’s layup at the 3:32 mark, but still Southern enjoyed a big lead at the break, 37-21, as GCA was held to only two field goals in the entire second period.

Southern pulled away in the second frame, as GCA had less second-chance scoring opportunities than the Rays and committed several errors. Southern then turned those

miscues in points and also gained a couple of baskets off second and third tries.

The Eagles’ woes continued in the second half, as they had limited resources on offense, while the Rays had a lot of options in the scoring department to post another dominating win.

GCA had only three players hitting more than two field goals each with Jeon firing a game-high 25 points. Moon Bin Hong added 14, while Angelo Salas chipped in 10. Bran-

don Chargualaf and Eric Jones nailed four and two markers, respectively, while GCA’s six other players were all scoreless.

In contrast, Southern had four players scoring in double figures with Nicko Salem leading the way with 16 points. Marvin Ngeskebei contributed 14, while Melvin Cadiang and Jimmy Tudela tallied 12 and 10, respectively. Five other Southern players combined for 27 points.

Southern and GCA played in the second varsity game of the

day with the Rays following the tone set by Kagman High School in the opening match. The Ayuyus whipped Mt. Carmel in the curtain raiser, 85-47.

SSHS 80 – Salem 16, Ngeskebei 14, Cadiang 12, Tudela 10, Castro 7, Ecalnea 6, Villanueva 6, Ferrer 4, Byun 4.

GCA 57 – Jeon 25, Hong 14, A. Salas 10, Chargualaf 4, Jones 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-16, 37-21, 60-37, 80-57.

This year there are seven Junior League squads. The other five teams include Survivors, Red Sox, Jets, Kagman Lions, and Falcons.

Six teams make up this year’s Senior League field. The other four teams consist of Ol’Aces, Jets, Heats, and Hunters.

Six teams also make up this season’s Big League. Hustlers, Ol’Aces, Northern Stars, and Kagman Lions make up the other four squads.

Games will also take place on Sunday, Jan. 30; however, the official schedule is still being finalized.

LITTLE

From Page 28

president Robert Guerrero during a Jan. 19 meeting at McDonald’s Middle Road.

The ceremony will start with the introduction of the teams followed by the presentation of colors. Then representatives of each team will read the “Little League Pledge” just before the ceremonial first pitch. The special guest who will throw out the first pitch is still being determined.

After the conclusion of the ceremony a Junior, Senior, and

Big League contest will commence. Teams will flip a coin before each game to see who gets to be the home team.

The 2010 Junior League champion Oleai Aces will take on last year’s runner-up Fielders at 9:30am. Then at 12:30pm, a Senior League matchup is scheduled between the 2010 champion Kagman Lions and runner-up Fielders.

A Big League matchup between 2010 champion Fielders and Hunters then wraps up the opening day series at the Palacios Field.

Three Majors division games

are also on tap at Miguel “Tan Ge” Basa Field. The first game will start at 9:30am and feature Ol’Aces taking on Tanapag Falcons. Then at 12:30pm the Rays will challenge Dan Dan Comets followed by the matchup between IT&E and Tanapag Braves. Teams will also flip a coin to determine who will receive home field advantage.

Fourteen teams make up this year’s Majors division. The other eight teams include Docomo A’s, Strikers, As Matuis Twins, McDonald’s, Jets, JPO Enforcers, Red Sox, and Kagman “Little” Lions.

SIS, MHS 1 unscathed in girls v-ball

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Saipan International School and Marianas High School 1 are still undefeated in the

Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's girls varsity volleyball league after downing their respective opponents last Thursday at the MHS Gymnasium.

SIS displayed another tremendous performance to brush off Grace Christian Academy in all three sets.

The Lady Geckos took the first set, 25-11, and secured the team victory after taking the second set, 25-13. Then SIS went on to win the final match, 15-11, to complete the sweep of the Lady Eagles.

As SIS trudged forward on the north court, MHS 1 followed suit and schooled sister-team MHS 2 on the south end in the all-Lady Dolphins affair.

MHS 1 also won all three sets of its matchup, but MHS 2 put up a big fight in the opening game. MHS 1 edged out MHS 2, 28-26, and went on to take the last two matches in convincing fashion. Losing the first match was a big blow to MHS 2. From there MHS 1 smelled blood and pounced MHS 2, 25-13, in the second set before slamming the door in the last match, 15-9.



Saipan International School Lady Geckos remain undefeated in the MISO girls varsity volleyball league after beating Grace Christian Academy last Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In the 4:30pm matchups played just prior, GCA defeated MHS 2 in two out three sets on the north court. They won the opening match, 25-15, and kept it rolling into the second game, which they took, 25-17. Then the Lady Eagles dropped the final set, 13-15, to give the Dolphins a much-needed pickup heading into their next matchup.

GCA now holds and even 1-1 win-loss card, while MHS 2 is still searching for its first win in three tries.

The other matchup was scheduled between Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School on the south court, but the Lady Ayuyus were awarded a win by forfeit as a result of the Lady Manta Rays' failure to submit required paperwork.

The teams played out the sets, but scoring results were not made available. KHS now holds a 1-2 record after falling to both SIS and MHS 1. The Lady Manta Rays suffered two forfeits and have yet to play an

official game.

Four more MISO games were played yesterday with SIS and MHS 1 scheduled to square off against one another. Results were not available as of press time.

The season continues tomorrow at the MHS Gym with 4:30pm matchups scheduled between SIS and Southern on the north court and MHS 2 and KHS battling it out on the south end. Then at 5:30pm, Southern will take on GCA on the north court, while SIS challenges MHS 2.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

RBC New Year basketball tourney starts Saturday

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Rollers Basketball Club's U16 and U18 New Year's Basketball

Tournament tips off this Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The tournament will run for two consecutive Saturdays ending on Feb. 5 with matches scheduled from 5pm to 9pm, if weather permits.

If it does rain, games may be moved into Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, according to RBC head coach Joe Diaz.

Five teams have already been confirmed participation in each of the U16 and U18 divisions and slots are still available.

Some of the teams that have already signed up are three Rollers squads in each division, Tanapag Falcons, G-Stars, and others teams that have yet to designate team names.

The RBC New Year's tourney will incorporate a single-round robin format, which is still tentative depending on the turnout. Games will be played with two 16-minute halves.

Team trophies will be awarded to the champions and runners-up of each division in addition to team sportsmanship honors. Individual awards will also be presented to the most valuable players both throughout the tournament and the championship matches.

The entrance fee per 12-player team is set at \$100 per team, but with the help of potential sponsorships, the fee could be decreased to only \$50 per squad.

Diaz said that RBC still needs to cover expenses for referees and table officials of the competition.

"We just finished our first-

ever Christmas tournament for our younger players and I'd like to thank IT&E again for all of their support. The kids really had a good time and I was pleased overall with the execution of the event. Now we'd like to put on this next tourney for our older players. These kids are at that age, where they may make some questionable decisions in life. It is important for us as a community that we make efforts to keep them off the streets and out of trouble," he said.

Diaz is a very busy man right now as in addition to overseeing well over 100 kids that make up the RBC, he is head coach for the Rollers team competing in the highly competitive 2nd Annual Docomo Pacific/Unified Basketball Association Men's League, while serving as an assistant coach for Hoopaholics.

"We want to thank Jerry Tan for providing trophies for our upcoming tourney, but [RBC] could still use a little more help funding the referees and table officials. RBC is a non-profit organization that organizes these events as fundraisers for various off-island competitions," said Diaz.

Furthermore, he said RBC is about more than just basketball, as it is committed to molding youth into positive contributors of society.

"Our kids exhibit a lot more than just playing ball. They learn about teamwork, leadership, healthy competition, and the importance of work ethic through both basketball and many of the other civil services that we perform as our way of giving back to the community," he added.

RBC is always looking for new sponsors and donors to help supplement their activities. For more information, contact Diaz at 483-1791 or 322-3240.

Female strikers urged to join futsal league

By **ROSELYN B. MONROY**
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REPORTER



As the 2010 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall

League wrapped up last Saturday after about three months of competition, organizers challenged participants to come back and bring more players.

Rebecca Schroeder, who worked with members of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's women's committee in putting up the league, said women's futsal always welcome new players and would appreciate if more female strikers will participate in

the next season.

"We welcome moms, students, and all interested female players to come and join the fun," Schroeder said during the awards ceremony for the league.

Linda Anastacio, who plays for A league champion team Paire Football Club, said she enjoys futsal more than the regular game at a soccer field because the venue is not that big and less tiring.

Her Paire team, which was composed of mostly mothers looking for a weekend activity, defeated the younger players of Matansa U18 in the finals, 3-2, behind the two goals of former CNMI Women's Basketball

Team member Vanessa Mobil.

The women's futsal fall league's B division (for recreational and new players) lured eight squads, while the A division or the competitive category drew four squads.

Anastacio and company topped the B league with their 6-0-2 win-loss-draw record and defeated MP United 2 and Tan Holdings Football Club in the playoffs to set a finals tiff against Matansa U18.

Matansa finished second to Paire in the regular season with its 5-2-1 card and then downed MHS U18 and Shirley's Coffee Shop in the first two playoff games to book a finals berth. Shirley's went on

to beat Tan Holdings in the battle for third place.

In the A league, Paire also reigned in the regular season with its 6-0-1 slate and then ousted Independents FC 2 in the semis, 8-0, to make it to the finals. In the finals, Paire had another easy win, whipping MP United, 8-1. MP United advanced to the finals after a 3-1 triumph over IFC 1.

Meanwhile, NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas, who handed the perpetual trophy to A league champion Paire, thanked all the participating teams in the fall league and congratulated the women's committee for helping NMIFA organize the competition.



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Participants in the 2010 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall League pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the competition last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

SSC Ocean Swim set for Feb. 6



The 33rd Annual Saipan Swim Club

Ocean Swim will hit the waters off Saipan World Resort on Feb. 6 with the competition open to various age groups.

The youth division will have five age groups and their respective distance races. Participants in the U8 division will only swim 600meters, while the 9 to 10 and 11 to 12 age groups will race in 1-kilometer and 1.3-km events, respectively. Swimmers in the 13 to 14 and 15 to 19 age groups will compete in the longest race of the day—the 2.5-km swim.

Entries in the 20 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59 and 60-and-above age groups can choose to swim either in the 1.3-km or 2.5-km races.

Interested swimmers are asked to fill-up registration and waiver forms, which can be obtained

from SSC at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. Registration fees made before noon on Jan. 31 is only \$15. Entrance fee after that costs \$25. Registration and waiver forms are also available on race day.

Races will begin at 7am.

Last year, 44 swimmers joined the 32nd edition of the ocean swim race with Tsunami Saipan's Kai Staal leading the top finishers in various age groups.

Staal timed in at 32 minutes and 57 seconds in the 2.5-km race, shattering the 2009 winning time of Rezne Wong. Staal defeated teammates Kensuke Kimura (33:11), Shin Kimura (33:13), and Kaisei Toda (39:45) in the men's race.

In the women's division, SSC's Amanda Johnson was the first finisher in the 2.5 swim, timing in at 42:45 and beating Grace Kimball (44:44) and Keanna Villagomez (44:52). (Roselyn B. Monroy)

West's late shot lifts
Hornets over Thunder

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Saipan Tribune Sports

SIS, MHS 1
unscathed in
girls v-ball

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28 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI to bid for 2017 Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It's official. The CNMI will submit a bid to the Pacific Games Council to host the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.



Fitial



White

The Commonwealth moved closer to bringing the Mini Games here after the pre-bid committee formed by no less than Gov. Benigno R. Fitial voted unanimously to submit a bid for the quadrennial competition. The decision was made during the pre-bid committee meeting yesterday with government and local sports officials in attendance.



Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael was one of the local sports officials selected to be part of the committee and the NMASA head was happy with this recent development.

"NMASA is very pleased with the decision to submit a bid for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games. This decision could

See CNMI on Page 26

Rays sweep Eagles in varsity caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Saipan Southern High School duplicated its first round win over Grace Christian Academy after an 80-57 triumph in their second meeting in the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The win was a morale booster for the Rays, as they came off a frustrating double-overtime loss to the MHS Dolphins last Friday. Southern now has a 2-2 record for third place in the varsity division, while GCA absorbed its third defeat in a row after winning its debut against Mt. Carmel on Jan. 7, 55-44.

Southern defeated GCA in the first round of the double-

► Saipan Southern High School's Pedro Castro goes up for a layup against Grace Christian Academy's Moon Bin Hong, right, and Angelo Salas during the second quarter of their varsity game in the MISO caging last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



RELATED NEWS

■ SIS, MHS 1 unscathed in girls v-ball.

Page 27

round robin regular season on Jan. 14, 68-50, and less than two weeks later, the Rays still had the Eagles' numbers.

In their second meeting, the Eagles and Rays engaged in a close battle only in the first six minutes of the match with Dae Min Jeon's back-to-back baskets tying the game at 16-all.

However, GCA went scoreless in the remaining minutes of the opening period and the drought was extended in the first 6:38 of the second period, allowing Southern to break the game wide open.

With GCA going cold in the closing minutes of the first period, Southern took a 23-16 lead after that canto. In the second period, the Rays had an 8-1 scoring in the first six and a half minutes for a 31-16 advantage. Dae Min Jeon made GCA's first point in the second quarter off a split charity.

The Eagles then broke the spell and made their first field

See RAYS on Page 26

Sister teams prevail in UBA/Docomo caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IP&E Konflikt and IT&E Fundamentalists broke into the win column of the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League after downing separate foes last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

IP&E Konflikt outclassed Satbati in the homestretch of the first game, 71-66; while IT&E Fundamentalists capitalized on a depleted Prospects' crew en route to a 51-35 triumph. The Fundamentalists and IP&E Konflikt, which have the same corporate sponsor—Citadel Holdings—improved to 1-2 and 1-1 records, respectively.

Satbati failed to notch its second win after committing costly errors and missing important shots in the closing seconds of the match.

Satbati led, 66-63, going into the last two minutes of the

match, but a Junar Guiab baseline jumper moved IP&E Konflikt within one, 65-66. Wowie Abuel hung on to the ball too much in the ensuing play before losing it with the 24-second shot clock almost expiring. As the 24-second shot clock sounded, IP&E Konflikt simultaneously stole the leather and was granted continuation of play with Elmer Esdrelon on the finishing end, making a layup.

Behind, 66-67, Satbati faltered on its bid to regain the driver's seat when Jom-

ary Tumaquip tapped the ball away from Rolly Paraiso at the baseline off an inbound play.

Esdrelon converted another layup off the Satbati error to give IP&E Konflikt a three-point lead, 69-66, with less than a minute left on the clock. IP&E Konflikt protected their lead, as Abuel missed his first

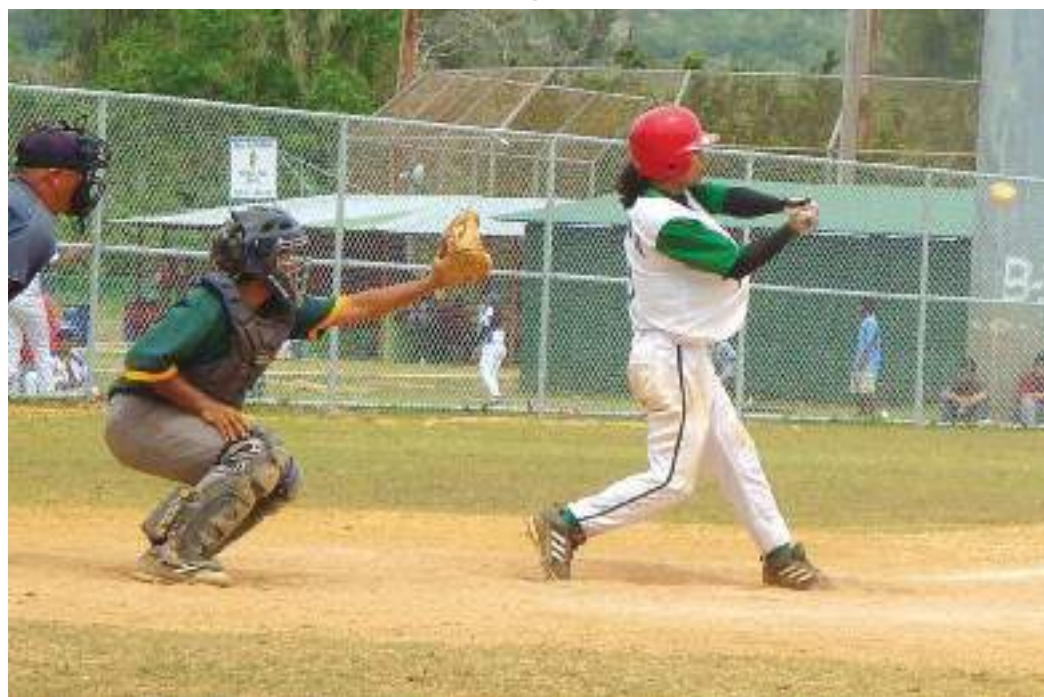
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► Prospects' Perry Inos, right, rams into IT&E Fundamentalists' Dae Won Jeon who fakes off his defenders during the fourth quarter of their game in the UBA/Docomo caging last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

2011 Little League season opens Saturday



By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The 2011 Saipan Little League season kicks off this Saturday, Jan. 29, after a brief 9am opening ceremony at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

"We are planning to hold a shorter opening ceremony this year, which is a little different than normal," said Saipan Little League Baseball Association

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► The 2011 Little League season openers are set for this Saturday following a brief 9:00am opening ceremony at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER SUTHERLAND